Sin may lead ‘revolt’ if Estrada is acquitted

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2001 ★ 48 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 36 ₱15

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Anthony Hopkins reprises ‘cannibal’ role in ‘Hannibal’
- New beginning for Joel Torre
- Film Year 2000’s best movies

HOPKINS

Laarni leaves HK, flies to New York

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

LAARNI Enriquez left Hong Kong Thursday night on a Cathay Pacific flight to New York, where she plans to consult a doctor at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center for an undisclosed reason, a Filipino source in Hong Kong told the IN-

LAARNI/ A14

Erap men asked me not to talk–Espiritu

THE MILLION-PESO question: Did Yasay pocket it? Dante Tan claims he did during a press conference on Friday.
ERIK ARAZAS

Angara admits call but denies pressure

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND ROCKY NAZARENO

UNTIL the last minute, President Estrada’s men urged former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu not to testify against the President at the Senate impeachment court.

Espiritu disclosed yesterday that two hours before he was to testify on Thursday, newly appointed Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara phoned him around noon to tell him that the President had an urgent message.

“*Ed, may pinagbibilin ang Pangulo na yung kaso ng anak mo ay aayusin na* (Ed, the President has a message for you that the case of your son will be fixed),” Angara allegedly told him.

Espiritu also disclosed that Carmelo Santiago, a friend of the President’s, went to his home on Wednesday night to convey the same message.

The night before, former Rep. Miguel Romero also came to see him with the same message from the President, according to the former finance secretary.

“*Pasensya na lang po at ako’y magte-testify ngayong hapon* (Forgive me, but I will have to testify this afternoon),” Espiritu told Angara.

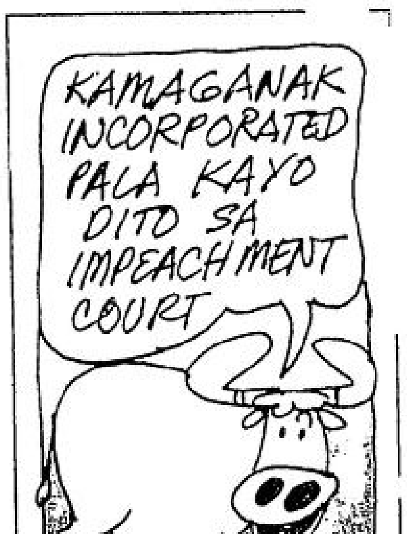
DAY 21

Undeterred by the pressures, Espiritu testified yesterday that at the behest of Mr. Estrada, BW Resources Corp. obtained a P600-million loan from the Philippine National Bank (PNB), although it did not have the collateral

ERAP MEN/ A14

JESS YUSON

ESPIRITU: "Heavy emotional distress."



KAMAGANAK INCORPORATED PALA KAYO DITO SA IMPEACHMENT COURT

All in the family in court

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

“LET’S not make this a family affair,” said Presiding Officer Hilario Davide Jr., to the laughter of the impeachment court.

Former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, a prosecution witness at President Estrada’s impeachment trial, has family ties with two senator-judges.

Ramon Revilla is his maternal uncle, being the

ALL/ A3

BW PAYOFF

Dante Tan has ‘goods’ on Yasay

BY ELENA TORRIJOS

BUSINESSMAN Dante Tan yesterday presented checks and documents supporting his claim that he paid cash and shares to Perfecto Yasay Jr., former Securities and Exchange Commission chair, upon the latter’s offer to get him off the hook in the probe of BW Resources stock fraud scandal.

At the same time, Tan denied that he asked President Estrada to help him in the BW case and that he gave the President any BW shares.

“As far as I know, the President has nothing to do with BW,” he said, belying the allegation of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu that the President and Tan were partners in BW Resources.

But Tan admitted that he contributed to the campaign of Mr. Estrada in the 1998 presidential election.

Tan also showed documents covering the transfer in 1999 of two million BW shares

DANTE/ A14

‘We never heard Erap owns BW’

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE ADMINISTRATION’S economic managers yesterday rallied behind their chief executive as they denounced the allegations of former finance chief Edgardo B. Espiritu that President Estrada owned BW Resources Corp. jointly with Dante Tan.

They claimed that they who moved in the President’s “inner circle” never heard about Mr. Estrada’s co-ownership of BW Resources Corp.

Finance Secretary Jose T. Pardo, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla and Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno yesterday said in separate interviews that they

WE/ A14

“GUILTY” as charged according to the polls, but curiously respondents are divided on whether or not President Estrada should resign.
DENNIS SABANGAN

A question on smugglers ‘risky’ to witness

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

ANALYSIS

IT WAS a first in the emotionally charged impeachment trial of President Estrada.

A senator widely perceived to be pro-administration and a defense lawyer who has been accused of going out of bounds in his defense of the President joined hands to prevent a prosecution witness from answering a senator’s question.

Acting on strong representations of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and lawyer Estelito Mendoza, Edgardo Espiritu, former finance secretary of the President, was excused by the court from answering Sen. Franklin Drilon’s question on the identity of big-time smugglers.

The question had nothing to do with the impeachment charges under consideration. It appeared to be an off-the-cuff question. If the same question had been asked by the defense, it would have been immediately disallowed by the presiding officer for being immaterial and irrelevant.

But had Espiritu answered it truthfully, which

A QUESTION/ A13

Erap steadily losing people’s trust, polls say

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

A BESIEGED President Estrada has steadily and even drastically lost the trust of people in Metro Manila since the start of his impeachment trial, but the city dwellers seem to be split on the question of whether or not he should resign, according to the findings of three recent polls.

A Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey indicated that 41 to 46 percent of 500 people found the President “guilty” of accepting “jueteng” bribes; amassing undeclared wealth

ERAP/ A13

Talk of Metro folk: Big garbage stink

GARBAGE is rapidly replacing politics as the main topic of conversation in Metro Manila.

While the twists and turns of President Estrada’s impeachment trial have kept the nation on the edge of its seat, citizens of the metropolis are focusing on a problem closer to home—growing piles of rubbish littering the streets.

The mounds of garbage are growing by the day, and residents are desperate to find ways to get rid of their trash.

In Malacañang, Acting Press Secretary Mike Toledo would rather speak in generalities, but said there would be a major announcement that would solve the worsening garbage problem.

The decision will be an exercise of “political will” by President Estrada, Toledo said.

Asked if this was about the rumored reopening of the San Mateo

TALK/ A14

PEOPLE POWER PART 2!

Second FRONT PAGE

Sin may lead 'revolt' if…

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

ARCHBISHOP Jaime Cardinal Sin will issue a call for people to take to the streets, similar to what he did during the Edsa People Power Revolution in February 1986, if President Estrada is acquitted through "deceit" in his corruption trial, his spokesman warned yesterday.

Fr. Lito Jopson, media director of the Manila Archdiocese, said the Church would not tolerate any "immoral" administration continuing to stay in power, especially if President Estrada was cleared of any wrongdoing through "deceit and manipulation."

Also yesterday, Jopson said that Sin would not resign and would not refrain from calling for the President's resignation even if it would mean a better relationship between Malacañang and the Church.

"Cardinal Sin is not the issue here. The issue is the President," said Jopson, in reaction to a televised statement from Ambassador Ernesto Maceda saying Sin should step down to pave the way for harmony between the President and the Church.

Jopson said that if Mr. Estrada was acquitted in the ongoing impeachment trial, the Church, together with its lawyers, would first study the verdict and "if there are indications the President's acquittal was premised on deceit and manipulation, there would be no acceptance on our part."

Asked how they could tell if Mr. Estrada was guilty, Jopson said "we would know through our moral sense . . . the truth is coming out."

Jopson also read a statement signed by Sin and 53 other members of the Manila Archdiocese's presbyterial council, calling on senator judges to vote according to the truth and their conscience and not in favor of money or political concessions.

He said that Sin was concerned that some of the pro-Estrada senators acting as judges in the trial were trying to condition the public's mind to prepare them for Mr. Estrada's acquittal.

He said that if one were to go by the numbers in the impeachment court, it would seem that President Estrada is up for acquittal.

Jopson actually said that a repeat of the bloodless People Power Revolution on Edsa in 1986 was a "strong" possibility, but backtracked when reporters pressed for details of the Church's possible role in the overthrow of President Estrada should he be acquitted under "deceitful" circumstances.

Jopson clarified the Cardinal would call people to participate in peaceful protest actions that would "bring down President Estrada . . . through constitutional means."

"The Church has always advocated peaceful assembly and protest actions. Perhaps it would be fair to assume that it would adopt the same tact should President Estrada be acquitted," said lawyer Kevin Vivero, legal counsel for the Manila Archdiocese.

Vivero said extra-legal protests such as civil disobedience would still have to be discussed.

Jopson clarified that the Cardinal would not resign, at least not until the prelate reaches the mandatory retirement age of 75. Sin is now 72 years old.

The ABS-CBN television station had reported yesterday morning that Maceda, the outgoing ambassador to Washington, had said that the relationship between Malacañang and the Church would improve if and when Sin moves out of the Manila Archdiocese and stops calling for Mr. Estrada to step down.

"The Cardinal is just doing his job as pastor of his flock. (That is) to educate the people without sacrificing the truth," said Jopson.

₱6-M man said to be a friend of Jinggoy's

BY LEAH SALTERIO
AND TJ BURGONIO

JUANCHO Mendiola, the man who was arrested last Thursday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for carrying P6 million in cash in his backpack, is said to be a friend of San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Ejercito, President Estrada's eldest son by First Lady Luisa Ejercito.

According to a source, Mendiola, whose nickname is "Cho-Cho," is a longtime friend of Jinggoy's, dating from their high school days at Aquinas School.

But Jinggoy yesterday strongly denied knowing Mendiola.

"This is the first time I heard his name. Please don't link him to any member of my family," he said.

Mendiola, who claims to be a credit card guarantor and zoology graduate, was arrested by Customs agents at Naia after he was found to be carrying P6 million in a bag. He was slated to take the 6:05 a.m. Philippine Airlines flight 302 whose departure was delayed for two hours while it waited for him. Mendiola was detained at the airport and prevented from leaving.

On the same flight was a former starlet, Laarni Enriquez, who is a mistress of President Estrada.

Mendiola denied that the cash belonged to him or to Enriquez. He said he carried the money on the request of a friend, for a huge commission.

The discovery of the P6 million in Mendiola's luggage sparked speculations among Philippine Airlines staff that the money may have been intended for Enriquez.

Customs authorities at the airport yesterday declared that the attempt by Mendiola to smuggle P6 million out of the country had no connection with Enriquez's sudden departure for Hong Kong.

But they filed charges against Mendiola, 36, for violation of the country's banking and customs laws with the Pasay City prosecutor's office.

Television host Lolit Solis also said on radio yesterday that Mendiola was in Jinggoy's gang at Aquinas, which included actor Gabby Concepcion.

Another friend at Aquinas, Martin Gutierrez, now works in the office of Jinggoy.

The source said Mendiola has also "done favors" for Jinggoy and his younger brother, Jude.

Jinggoy denied having known Mendiola.

"I don't know him personally. Gabby Concepcion probably knows him but I don't," he said.

According to the source, Mendiola had once worked for Concepcion as manager of the actor's beach house in Anilao, Batangas.

Mendiola is said to be very trustworthy and reliable when it comes to money matters, the INQUIRER source said. He reportedly handled the payroll for the staff of Concepcion's beach house for several years. Concepcion would often ask Mendiola to escort and drive girls to the beach house.

The source said that Jinggoy Ejercito is close to Enriquez. Last August, Ejercito was seen accompanying Enriquez's two children, Jerika and Jake, to the invitational dinner of NBA superstar Grant Hill at the InterCon Hotel.

Ejercito's children were also reported to have attended the birthday party of Enriquez's son, Jake, at Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, in March last year.

On Sundays, the source said Enriquez's children would sometimes spend the day at Ejercito's residence in Greenhills, or at the President's Polk St. house in Greenhills.

Tess Roque, acting district collector of the Bureau of Customs unit at the Naia, said that Customs investigators have found no evidence to link Mendiola's smuggling attempt to Enriquez's departure.

Solon's aide 'kidnapped' by NBI

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE AIDE of Sen. Teofisto Guingona who, it was feared, had been abducted by 11 heavily armed men in Sta. Cruz, Manila on Thursday is in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation after all.

Acting NBI Director Carlos Caabay admitted yesterday his agency was holding the aide, Albert Saulog, after a "warrantless arrest" following a traffic altercation with an NBI agent on Wednesday.

Caabay denied Saulog's arrest was part of Malacañang moves to silence leaders of the opposition to President Estrada, saying Saulog was arrested during a legitimate operation by the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD). Guingona is a leader of the United Opposition.

It will be recalled that the NBI had earlier drawn flak after its agents went to the house of the chief of staff of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Rene Corona, ostensibly to do a background check.

Corona said the agents harassed his family, prompting Macapagal to accuse Malacañang of starting "a new wave of harassment" against the opposition.

The NBI denied the accusation, saying it would never be used to harass or intimidate opposition leaders.

In the latest incident, Caabay defended his men who carried out the "operation." He said Saulog was arrested after a verbal altercation with an AFCCD supervising agent, Palmer Mallari, after a traffic incident.

Saulog, 29, has been slapped with malicious mischief and drug charges after AFCCD agents claimed they recovered .03 grams of shabu when they arrested him

According to Caabay, the incident occurred while Mallari was driving his Toyota Corolla on San Lazaro Street in Sta. Cruz at noon Wednesday.

Caabay said Saulog appeared from nowhere and started throwing stones at Mallari's car while shouting invectives at him. It appeared that Saulog had been sideswiped by Mallari's car, according to two AFCCD agents who were at Caabay's office yesterday.

The agents, who refused to identify themselves, said that instead of confronting Saulog, Mallari drove away.

"But right after the incident, agents conducted a surveillance of Saulog," Caabay said, on the basis of which the agents arrested him the following day, Thursday, in front of his house at 1719 Milagros Street, Sta. Cruz.

'Maceda turns from diplomat to laundromat'

BY V.CONTRERAS

ERNESTO Maceda, President Estrada's spokesperson for the impeachment trial, has metamorphosed from a diplomat into a "laundromat."

The Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (or Clamor), yesterday aired the caustic observation in reaction to Maceda's statement that former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu's testimony on Thursday at the trial was "fully invented and imagined."

In a statement, Clamor head convenor Dennis Funa challenged the outgoing ambassador to the United States to state under oath his sweeping denial of Espiritu's testimony that Mr. Estrada jointly owned BW Resources Corp. with Dante Tan.

It said Maceda "has regressed from being a diplomat to a mere laundromat, where he washes President Estrada's linen."

Noting that at the time of the then finance secretary's meeting with the President, Maceda was "10,000 miles away in Washington, D.C.," Funa wondered: "How can Maceda say that Espiritu is lying?"

Funa pointed out that Maceda's only basis for belying Espiritu's testimony was what Mr. Estrada had told him.

"But how can Maceda believe the President when the President does not even say the truth to his own wife and children?" Funa said.

Since Espiritu's bombshell testimony was made under oath, Maceda's denial "should also be under oath and before the impeachment court," Funa argued.

He said it was "unfair" to Espiritu that Maceda aired derogatory comments outside the court.

Demetriou: I didn't talk to Yasay on PLDT sale

COMMISSION on Elections chair Harriet Demetriou denied yesterday having talked to former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. in Malacañang about the sale of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. in 1999.

Demetriou admitted, however, that she bumped into Yasay at the chiropractic clinic of Dr. Martin Camara in Greenhills, San Juan, but they only talked about her legal opinion on the appointment of a new SEC chair while Yasay was under suspension.

"We talked about my legal opinion that former SEC Chair Rosario Lopez could not be appointed SEC chair because Yasay's suspension does not create a vacancy."

"We did not talk about the PLDT takeover by Metro Pacific Corp.," Demetriou said in a statement.

Demetriou was reacting to Yasay's testimony at the impeachment trial of President Estrada on Thursday that Demetriou and he "talked in Malacañang sometime in July 1999 and she told me the reason I was suspended was to ensure the acquisition of PLDT by Metro Pacific."

Demetriou said she had told the President in a memorandum that the most senior commissioner of the SEC should take over in case of the temporary incapacity of the chair.

Yasay was about to be served a preventive suspension for 90 days by the Ombudsman.

"I don't want my credibility to be used by either the pro-Erap or anti-Erap people. I will stand for the truth," Demetriou said.

Gerald Lacuarta

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AFP overruns Moro rebel camp

COTABATO CITY—The military claimed it captured on Thursday a major encampment of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in North Cotabato following a two-day air and ground offensive.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said 10 rebels were killed and five soldiers wounded in the assault on Camp Usman in President Roxas town.

Ando said the captured camp, known as the Little Camp Abubakar, has been the main MILF base after the fall of Camp Abubakar in June last year.

However, the MILF denied the camp had been overrun or that 10 rebels had been killed.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said only one rebel was killed while another was wounded.

Citing reports from the field, Kabalu said 15 soldiers were killed in the two-day fighting, but "they (the military) keep it from the public." *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lawmaker seeks to plug loopholes in power bill

OVERCHARGING, excessive profits and transfer of income tax burdens to consumers topped the list of objectionable provisions in the proposed Omnibus Power Act, according to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

In a statement, Enrile, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said he is pushing for amendments to protect consumers against high electricity rates, anomalous "sweetheart" deals, and excessive rate setting.

Enrile, a member of the bicameral conference committee, said both House Bill 8457 and Senate Bill 2000 narrowly focused on the generation cost of power.

Enrile cited four loopholes that are being exploited by power distributors to raise the cost of electricity:

- The local version of the Return on Rate Base (RORB) method has been abused and continues to provide power distributors with excessive profits amounting to as much as 30 to 40 percent of equity. He said private utilities and the Energy Regulatory Board have been duping consumers by claiming that they only earn 8 percent or less under the RORB method.
- Power distributors pass on their income tax to consumers, giving the former even higher return on equity.
- Private distributors buy their equipment and services under questionable "sweetheart" deals with sister or affiliate companies, and selected friends.
- Power distributors should not be allowed to negotiate power supply agreements with sister/affiliate firms. It is grossly unfair to consumers if the cost of these "sweetheart" deals is passed on to them.

All in . . .

(From page 1)

lone surviving sibling of his mother. Revilla, in turn, is the father-in-law of Robert Jaworski.

At the continuation of his testimony yesterday, Espiritu proudly declared himself a Caviteño, adding that he belonged to the prominent Bautista clan that recognized Revilla as its patriarch.

Espiritu said Revilla was one of the people whom he consulted before deciding to testify and reveal what he knew about the President's links to Dante Tan and BW Resources Corp.

He said Revilla, a known ally of the President, told him that the decision was his to make.

At one point in yesterday's hearing, Revilla asserted authority over Espiritu by urging the former finance secretary to name the smugglers whom he claimed to have seen visiting the President in Malacañang.

Senator-Judge Franklin Drilon had earlier asked Espiritu for the names—a question that Senator-Judge Raul Roco also raised later.

Espiritu was reluctant to do so, claiming that it would be "risky."

Still, under Roco's questioning, he appeared to be preparing to name names. But various senator-judges, including Jaworski, and defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza voiced objections.

In the tense moments that followed, Drilon withdrew his question.

But Revilla urged Espiritu a second time: "*Eddie, magsalita ka* (Speak up)." And Espiritu appeared ready to obey his uncle.

Roco said his question was independent of Drilon's. Prosecutor-Rep. Joker Arroyo rose and cited the "physical danger" to which Espiritu could be exposed.

To Roco's chagrin, Davide said the matter was settled with Drilon's withdrawal of the question.

Espiritu was excused from the witness stand, and his uncle submitted to the presiding officer's ruling.

'Take me and let my daughter go'

THE BRITISH stepfather of a six-year-old girl who was kidnapped by guerillas in Lamitan, Basilan, Wednesday has offered to trade places with her, even as the military is reportedly looking into reports the abduction may have been an "inside job."

Douglas Grant, whose stepdaughter April Adzam "Aiman" Grant was snatched from her home by four men, said: "In some ways I would like to go, I would like to say: 'You take me and let my daughter go,'" according to an Agence France Presse report.

In an appeal to the kidnappers from his home in Inverness, Scotland, Grant said, "The main thing is to get into contact and tell us what to do, sit down and talk. Violence doesn't do anything except make more violence."

The gunmen are thought to be members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf group or the larger separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, according to military sources.

Grant, a 50-year-old hospitality manager, said he is awaiting more information from his wife, Hadja Mina Rasul, 43.

A former soldier who met his wife in Kuwait, Grant settled in the Philippines with his wife and family but was forced to return to Britain in August to care for his elderly parents.

The military is looking into reports the abduction may have been an "inside job."

Col. Saulito Aromin, chief of the Basilan-based 103rd Army brigade, said neighbors of the victim said the girl's mother does not appear to be worried about her daughter's kidnapping.

"She even went on a shopping spree yesterday," Aromin told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

It still could not be determined if the victim is related to former senator Santanina Rasul.

A military intelligence report said April could have been abducted by relatives of her mother or neighbors in order to extort money from her father.

Ms Rasul said four gunmen speaking the local Muslim dialect came to her house and asked for water to drink. Later they demanded P1,000, she said.

When she handed over the money, the gunmen demanded an additional P100,000, the mother said. When she said she did not have the money, the suspects grabbed the girl at gunpoint and told her to raise the money.

While in pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf, which is also suspected in the kidnapping of a Filipino-Chinese businessman, government troops killed three members of the extremist group in an encounter in Sulu the other day.

Reports reaching Armed Forces headquarters in Quezon City said a team from the Army's 26th Special Forces Co. was on "combat operation" around Dulangan, Maiumbung, Sulu, when they encountered the rebel group.

Three bodies of the rebels were recovered along with three high-powered firearms, a grenade, two magazines for Garand rifles, two M16 rifles magazines and 100 rounds for a .30-caliber machine gun. *Juliet Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with Alcuin Papa and an AFP report*

De Villa warns vs new war

FORMER Defense Secretary Renato De Villa yesterday warned a new and major war in Mindanao would be something that the government would "regret later on."

He said the military is now facing a lot of "difficulties," including what he described as "overstretched" troops.

De Villa was reacting to reports that the government is deploying more troops to the South to go after the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"If we launch a major war in the South against the MILF, where is the target, where are the enemy formations, where are the enemy camps, they have reverted into small unit operations and locating them would be the first problem." De Villa told reporters Thursday.

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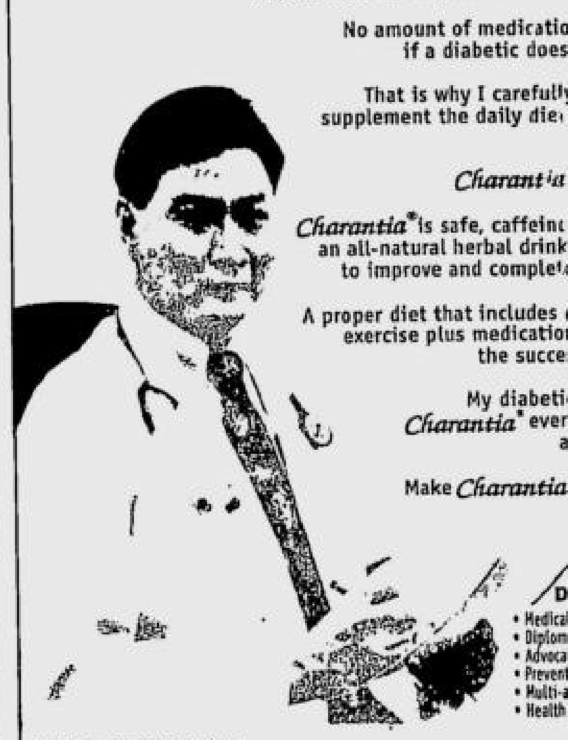

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Espiritu's bombshell

EDITORIAL

FORMER FINANCE Secretary Edgardo Espiritu exploded the biggest bombshell so far in the impeachment trial of President Estrada on Thursday when he testified that the President was a partner of Dante Tan in Best World Resources Corp. Espiritu testified that Mr. Estrada told him excitedly that he was making "quite a lot" of money from the trading of BW Resources shares through what the prosecution has charged as manipulation of the stock market.

The pivotal importance of Espiritu's testimony is that it established the reason Mr. Estrada had repeatedly asked Jose Luis Yulo, then president of the Philippine Stock Exchange, and Perfecto Yasay Jr., then chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to clear Tan of insider trading and stock market manipulation charges. Espiritu's testimony showed the President's motive for his interventions in favor of Tan and provided damning evidence to support Article 3 of the impeachment complaint charging the President with betrayal of the public trust.

The combined weight of the testimony given during the week by Espiritu, Yasay, Yulo and Ruben Almadro, former head of the PSE's Compliance and Surveillance Group, on the President's interference in the functions of these regulatory bodies, seems to have converted the betrayal of trust complaint into a stronger case for the prosecution than even the complaints on Article 1 (bribery) and Article 2 (graft and corruption).

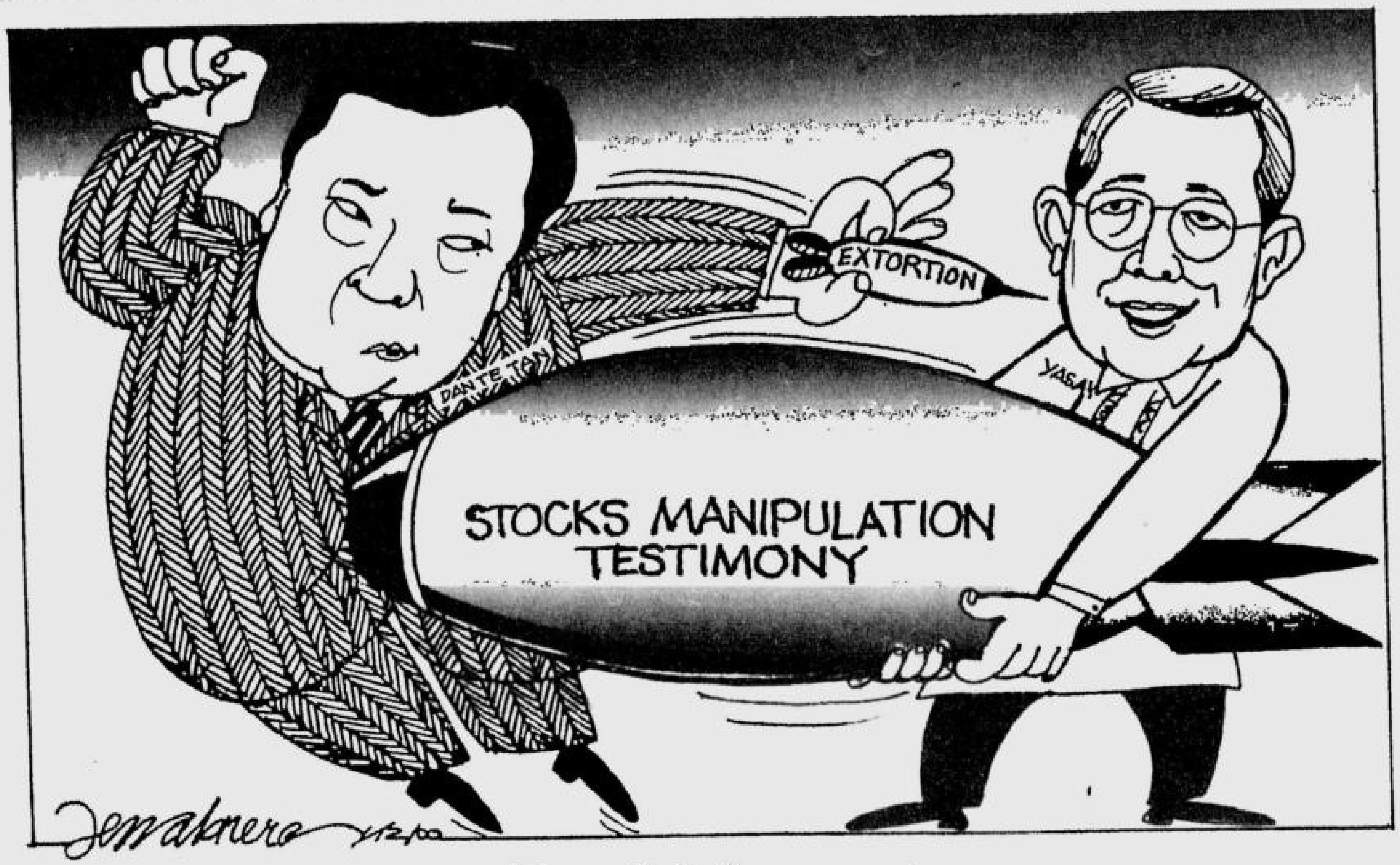
Earlier in the trial, the prosecution exploded two bombshells. The first consisted of the charges of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that the President had taken P400 million in bribes from *jueteng* and P130 million from tobacco excise tax. The second was the testimony of Clarissa Ocampo, senior vice president of Equitable PCI Bank, that she witnessed President Estrada signing a false name—Jose Velarde—on a P500-million trust agreement. The parade of witnesses, all giving damaging testimony and evidence, has driven the President to making standard denials and his defense lawyers to take rear-guard action like blocking the admission of evidence on grounds of "irrelevancy and immateriality" of the evidence to specific charges.

Galling to the President is that two of the most devastating witnesses were his former close associates: Singson, who was a long-time buddy, and Espiritu, one of his earliest and staunchest supporters in the 1998 presidential election campaign and his secretary of finance for two years. Both were insiders, in a different sort of way. Both knew a lot of what was happening inside the Palace. And both had different motives for bringing out the skeletons in the presidential closet. Singson ratted on the President after an alleged attempt to assassinate him, arising from a falling-out over gambling operations. Espiritu became a prosecution witness after resigning a year ago from the Cabinet, saying he could no longer stand the administration's corruption, including the President's involvement with Tan in stock market insider trading.

The President's special spokesperson on the impeachment trial, Ernesto Maceda, did not take long to retaliate against Espiritu by digging up dirt—revealing what he claimed to be irregular practices by Espiritu when he was president of Westmont Bank. A similar attempt to demolish the credibility of Singson has been mounted by picturing him as a criminal involved in pocketing excise tax money as well as being a "*jueteng* lord."

This demonizing, however, seeks to muddle the impeachment case with peripheral issues. It should be emphasized that Espiritu and Singson are not on trial here. It is the President who is being impeached. He is the focus of the trial, charged with serious acts generally portraying him as having criminalized the presidency and as being unfit for office. Talking as insiders, the testimony of Espiritu and Singson have a ring of truth that will be difficult to assail.

It should be noted that a number of credible personalities—including Yulo and Almadro—have come forward to testify despite the risks to their lives in order to lay bare the extent of the President's corrupt practices. As the trial races toward the completion target of Feb. 12, two things are certain: first, more bombshells will explode; and, second, the increasingly overwhelming evidence introduced by the prosecution makes it more difficult for the senator-judges to justify an acquittal.



Fearful forecast

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AT THIS stage of the impeachment proceedings, I am convinced, as so many others are, that the President's acquittal is in the works. I will not say inevitable because some supervening events may yet change that apprehension. But considering the present temper of the Senate as may be deduced from the loyalties and conduct of its members, I feel that the prosecution cannot muster the two-thirds vote needed for a conviction.

Counting noses, I fear that not more than eight senators may be expected to vote against Mr. Estrada. They are certainly less than the 14 members constituting two-thirds of the 21 senators now participating as judges in the trial of the President. The rest of the senators expected to support Erap make up a solid phalanx of 13 loyalists. Only eight of them are needed to block their hero's conviction.

Despite the overwhelming evidence presented so far against Mr. Estrada, his loyal defenders in the Senate can easily ensure his acquittal. Either they will prevent the admission of most of that evidence on the ground that it is immaterial and irrelevant as the defense panel insists. Or failing this, they will simply dismiss that evidence as incredible and sustain the respondent's denials as more reliable. They will say this with a straight face.

President Estrada is no more believable than his defense counsel, Estelito Mendoza, who disclaimed any involvement in the aborted attempt to transfer Jose Velarde's account in the Equitable PCI Bank to Jaime Dichaves. Dichaves and George Go signed the *antedated* documents in Mendoza's office. Why the two had to use that place when they have their own respective offices is hard to understand; it's really a curious happenstance more appropriate to Alice in Wonderland. That fairy tale cannot erase public suspicion of more unworthy deceptions of the defense, like the dirty trick foisted on the court and the public in the identification of another Delia Rajas.

Even before the start of the trial, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago already predicted the President's exoneration based on the number of senators already on his side. Among his known allies are the *balato* twins as they are scornfully called, an aspirant for a diplomatic appointment, two members whose relatives are holding lucrative positions at the pleasure of the President, two or three others in financial straits and requiring government assistance, some of those expecting inclusion in the administration senatorial slate, and several others who have openly defended the President while acting as judges.

There are also members from the other side who, while not tainted by personal or political interests, are obviously more sympathetic to the prosecution and, like their colleagues in the Estrada bloc, have not confined themselves to asking only clarificatory questions. Both sides have expressed adversarial and partisan arguments that should be raised properly only by opposing counsel, besides openly engaging in debate in favor of one or the other party.

The defense takes the position that the impeachment trial is a judicial proceeding of a criminal nature where all the constitutional rights of the accused should be strictly observed. If this be so, all the senator-judges inhibited by their suspect motivations and their open prejudgment of the case, should recuse themselves in accordance with the Rules of Court and the due process clause. Due process requires "the cold neutrality of the impartial judge," which these senators do not possess.

And still speaking of due process, I am distressed by the arbitrary action taken by the Senate against the three spectators denounced by Senator Santiago for looking at her "provocatively" after Senators Franklin Drilon and Raul Roco refuted her sarcastic remarks stressing the mercenariness rather than the nobility of the law profession. Her outburst earned her a hailstorm of ridicule from the outraged public. Worse, her colleagues sustained her, probably in a spirit of *pakikisama* or only to appease her or, God forbid, out of fear of her rage.

In effect, they participated in bullying the three spectators, who were not even given a chance to explain their side. And to rub salt on the wound, they were allowed to return to the Senate gallery, only to be unceremoniously expelled before they could hardly warm their seats, as punishment for their "affront" to the enraged lawmaker. I do not know what happened at the Senate caucus preceding that clearly arbitrary action. But I'm disappointed that, apparently, not a single senator spoke in defense of the three "respondents" or of their right to be heard before the hasty judgment was inflicted on them.

This kind of arbitrariness may presage the verdict that the Senate will pronounce in the case it is now trying. If its members can be stampeded into the questionable action it took on the Santiago fury, it is not unlikely that they will act with similar rashness, if not fright, in absolving President Estrada. The instigator this time will not be only an indignant senator denouncing an imagined insult but no less than the head of state hurling his angry thunderbolts at his accusers.

Even now, President Estrada has been issuing threats and promising retaliation against his enemies. Once acquitted, he will go against the business community whose leaders owe tremendous debts to the government that may be called at once without mercy. His son has joined him and darkly says he will file libel suits against all those who have maligned his father and his families. The Office of the President has many malignant powers that, in the hands of a vindictive chief executive, can be brandished to silence, intimidate and punish his enemies.

We can only hope that all these dire prognostications are only phantoms in the night that will disappear with the first blush of day and the emergence of the Truth. We can also pray, with equal undiminished fervor, that that Truth will not be smothered or distorted when the final vote is cast to find Joseph Ejercito Estrada guilty or not guilty.

N.B. Tapatt, one of the 24 civil society complainants in the current impeachment case, is conducting its Public Opinion Poll No. 2 on the subject of "Chief Justice Davide for President" in 2004. Those interested in participating are invited to access its webpage at www.tapatt.org.

Going against the President

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

TAKING a stand against a sitting President is not a path well-trod. Few can say no to him. After all, who in his right mind would willingly take on a person who has the resources of government at his beck and call, who has the power to hire and fire, and who can make one's life sheer misery?

Thinking of what forces can be unleashed against someone who has courted a president's displeasure, particularly one with the reputation for vindictiveness that the incumbent President has, is enough to make one quail.

Businesspersons are particularly vulnerable. Visits from internal revenue agents, who can examine endlessly a firm's financial accounts, disrupting office operations and finding fault even when there is none, are, I understand, one of the weapons at the President's command. For those whose operations require imports, delays in their release from Customs could spell the difference between profit and loss. The required licenses and permits from government are yet another sword of Damocles that can be held over one's head.

Lawsuits are also part of the arsenal. Not to mention the possibility that skeletons in one's closet can be discovered, or, if there are none, can be easily created out of whole cloth and used to destroy one's reputation. And then there is the "final solution"—death made to appear accidental.

There is no exaggeration here. Examples readily come to mind to illustrate how one or more of these weapons have been used against various people who were the objects of the President's ire. The irony is that he doesn't even have to give a direct order, which is why those questions by senator-judges, supposedly to get witnesses to "admit" that the President made no direct request, or order, are so ridiculous. There is no dearth of underlings who get the message and are only too willing to follow through.

In short, a president, by the very nature of his job, has enough weapons at his disposal to destroy his opponents, or anyone who displeases him, financially, legally, socially and even physically. It is ever so much easier to be on his side—as those who have received *balatos*, or had business loans approved for bankrupt corporations, past-due loans either condoned or uncollected, or were given first crack at purchasing government corporations up for privatization or private corporations under government influence, or whose relatives (or they themselves) have been given cushy jobs, etc. etc. will admit.

Even in a so-called hard state, the head of government has awesome powers. In a soft state, like the Philippines, it is almost a sky-is-the-limit situation. Almost.

The only practical constraint on a president's behavior is his fear of public exposure and its consequences. Adverse public opinion is the one thing that can make the most powerful person in the country tremble, and that only because, in the glare of public attention, the normally acquiescent and cooperative government agencies and officials are going to have to protect their own hide.

Using the foregoing as a background, one comes to fully appreciate the problems facing the witnesses for the prosecution in the impeachment trial of the President. And one can see why those witnesses are, for the duration, living in so-called safe houses, or other places where, presumably, it will be more difficult for them to become victims of possible "final" solutions. The disruption this causes to their daily lives is tremendous—and yet this is probably the least of the backlash they will suffer for their actions.

These witnesses may be considered heroes—or martyrs, as the case may be—for taking the road less traveled.

Ed Espiritu is the latest among them. And his testimony, coming as it does from someone who was one of the Estrada "origs" and not a Johnny-come-lately; one of the few businessmen who while neither classmates nor Chinese-Filipino, still supported Estrada's candidacy wholeheartedly; and who does not have a reputation for vindictiveness or for political ambition; and who was a top and very respected Cabinet official until he submitted his irrevocable resignation in January of last year; will be at least as damning as Clarissa Ocampo's testimony.

It has an even a greater ring of credibility because of the language used by Espiritu whenever he referred to Mr. Estrada. Always, there was a "*mahal na*" before the term "*Pangulo.*" I truly don't think he was being sarcastic—he must be fond of the man, because even when he submitted his resignation, he still tried to protect his boss by not putting down in writing the reasons for doing so, but instead told his boss what his fears and what his recommendations were.

Combine this with the fact that Espiritu refrained from criticizing his former boss after he left government, and it is very difficult to attribute to him any vindictiveness or any desire to bring Estrada down for personal reasons.

That his testimony is greatly feared by the defense for the damage that it will wreak on the President's case is evident from the moves that have been taken by defense lawyer Raul Daza who has been making a spectacle of himself by throwing every technicality he can cite to stop Espiritu's testimony, even going to the extent of saying that Espiritu was not competent to talk about the P600-million loan the Philippine National Bank extended to a bankrupt BW Resources, even though as secretary of finance, Espiritu had access to the information.

What Daza forgets is that all these attempts at blocking Espiritu's testimony merely increases the latter's credibility, as well as the public's suspicion of attempts to suppress information.

Malacañang has also gotten into the act, unleashing a campaign to discredit Espiritu—with Dante Tan and Mark Jimenez calling him a liar, and with Ernesto Maceda bringing up the financial troubles of Westmont Bank, which Espiritu headed before he became secretary of finance.

On these moves, I have only one question: If Espiritu's testimony is really worthless, as Malacañang and the defense lawyers would have us believe, why did Estrada call up Espiritu and ask him not to testify? And why, up to the morning of Espiritu's testimony, was he being called by Malacañang to desist—complete with all kinds of carrots?

That Espiritu ignored the easier road, and has chosen the road less-traveled—that of the truth and concern for country over selfish interests—makes him truly deserving of the gratitude and respect of the Filipino people.

A damaged presidency

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ONE of the President's mistresses, Laarni Enriquez fled to Hong Kong Thursday morning to escape the subpoena issued by the Senate impeachment court. As lawyers, notably Sen. Frank Drilon, were quick to point out, there is a rule in law that "flight is an admission of guilt."

* * *

Palace trial spokesperson Ernesto Maceda asserts that as a result of the disclosure of his involvement in the trading of the BW Resources shares, Sen. Rene Cayetano ought to inhibit himself from voting in the impeachment trial. The implication is that Cayetano cannot be an unbiased judge. A citizen called up to stress, however, that if this is the measure of "biased judgment," then the same inhibition principle should be applied to Senators John Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta. The caller noted that the two senators had accepted a *balato* from President Estrada which Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson says came from *jueteng* collections. (The two senators later returned the *balato* to the Senate, and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had it deposited with the national treasurer's office.)

* * *

I was quite disturbed by the way Sen. Ramon Revilla humiliated and harassed our media colleague and friend, Emeterio Perez of the Tribune, at last Thursday's session. I'm sure many of our colleagues share the sentiment. Perez, who worked with us in the INQUIRER for some time before transferring to other jobs was called by the prosecution to testify on his presence in then SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay's office some time in November 1999. Perez had written that he was present when Yasay received a call from President Estrada, one of several calls Yasay was to receive in those weeks, who told him to go easy on the SEC's investigations into Tan's shenanigans at BW.

It was brought out during the direct testimony and questioning by the defense and the senators that Perez wrote about this episode four months later, and that in the interim he had quit his job and was, in fact, doing odd jobs until he got another newspaper job. Perez explained that he wrote that column in March 2000 as a "last hurrah" for Yasay who was then set to leave the SEC. Revilla seized upon Perez's joblessness to ask if Yasay paid him for that column and how much. He also asked how the newsman could feed his family considering he had no job. Perez replied with ill-concealed bitterness: "My wife and I live a simple lifestyle and even if I lose my job for six months, we will eat three times a day, I assure you, Mr. Senator."

* * *

Revilla's remarks were totally uncalled for. I know Perez as an honest guy. His wife works at the SEC, but Perez pointed out that she was not promoted throughout the term of Yasay. I want to assure the Cavite senator, however, that even the most dishonest media member cannot be a match for the corruption of some of the politicians, and therefore politicians should not be lecturing media people on corruption.

It wasn't in good taste either for Sen. Francisco Tatad to assail the credibility of Perez, since Tatad sprang from the ranks of media himself. *Sana iba na lang ang nagsabi noon.*

* * *

I have earlier written that nothing can be as strong as the force of truth. This became obvious again in the testimony of former Philippine Stock Exchange president Nonoy Yulo, former PSE compliance and surveillance chief Ruben Almadro, Yasay and former Finance Secretary Ed Espiritu. For instance, it was obvious that Almadro and Yulo not only knew what they were talking about, but that they were speaking the truth. Thus, defense lawyer Raul Daza and the pro-Erap senators could get nowhere with them. As the lawyers watching the trial put it, when experts take the witness stand, the best thing is to make the cross-examination as short as possible.

By the way, Espiritu's declaration that his current position is "chair of the Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation" made me smile. I thought that at last, ASK has arrived; it is now part of the impeachment records. This columnist founded ASK together with other professionals in 1987 to help the widows and orphans of enlisted military personnel killed or wounded in action. Ed has chaired it from the beginning, raising a lot of funds for it. We are very proud of him.

* * *

A lot is being made of Sen. Rene Cayetano's use of the impeachment court to defend himself, without a binding oath, from imputations about his having profited enormously from BW share purchases. But at least Cayetano is a member of the Senate. Defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza was allowed by presiding officer Hilario Davide to defend himself, without taking an oath right in that court, against the allegation of Clarissa Ocampo.

The bank official had stated that Mendoza was present during the attempt by presidential crony Jaime Dichaves to have the Equitable PCI Bank make a second set of investment documents transferring the Jose Velarde trust account to Dichaves right in Mendoza's law office.

In his speech, Mendoza said he knew nothing of what transpired in his own law office. Prosecutor Joker Arroyo quickly protested the former's use of the court for his personal defense, a sentiment shared by other citizens who felt the proper forum for Mendoza should have been a press conference.

* * *

The credibility of Cayetano's startling allegation that President Estrada had asked him to help the son of former Sen. Freddie Webb who got implicated in the Vizconde murder cases, and that Estrada had tried to influence Judge Amelita Tolentino's decision on the Webb case was tested in the INQUIRER poll of 1,313 people who visited this newspaper's website yesterday. To the query, "Do you believe that Estrada asked Cayetano to help in the Webb case?" 91 percent said yes; 5 percent said no; and 4 percent said they couldn't say.

* * *

One implication of these data, which should become clear to the pro-acquittal senators, is that the people are ready to believe the worst about the President. Because of the overwhelming evidence raked up in this trial, his presidency has been irreparably damaged in the eyes of the Filipino people and the world. Even if he were to be acquitted, the President can no longer effectively govern. Neither can he face the world as the leader of the Filipinos. The message the senators will telegraph to the Filipino people with an acquittal is that it is okay to get involved in shenanigans. To the world, it is that this only Christian nation in Asia has an incredibly high tolerance for corruption. We would look like fools.

At this point, Mr. Estrada's Cabinet members and his lawyers should tell him it's time to go. Let's spare him further humiliation. As one prosecutor told me after all the bombshells in the BW scam exploded, "We ought to stop the trial already. He should already resign." I agree. The nation ought to now move on to a new beginning, a new moral order.

The chicken at the trial

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DINNER parties now start around 9 p.m., I am told, as most guests can't leave their homes until the televised impeachment hearings are over. And once at the dinner, they talk of nothing else but the impeachment case.

Such was the impact of her brief testimony at the Senate that the branch where the winsome Shakira Yu is manager has experienced a sudden increase in deposits. A friend's son and his *barkada* even dropped by Yu's branch just to catch a glimpse of her.

Radyo Bandido, the rabidly anti-Erap station where anybody can call to vent his spleen against the President and his friends, now frequently airs the song "Huling-huli," after the 1960s hit "Wooly Bully," a takeoff on Clarissa Ocampo's testimony on the Jose Velarde account.

Given Thursday's explosive, dramatic and indeed cinematic testimony and events, I can just imagine what jokes, songs, sit-com story lines and even fashions will emerge in popular culture. What to make of a gleeful President announcing he was making oodles of money from a stock market scandal? Or the flight of dear Laarni seeking to outrun a subpoena? What about the guy caught in the airport, taking the same flight as Laarni, with P6 million in his luggage?

Truly, not even the most creative scriptwriter could have come up with such fantastic and wild scenarios!

* * *

I HAVE friends to thank in the various e-mail groups where I belong for material that I've used in this space from time to time. I was about to delete this message from the "Neveragain" e-group since it was, I thought, old hat. But as I scrolled down the message, I found items that bring this classic up-to-date and, to use fashionable language, "relevant and material" to us Pinoys.

The entries are replies of noteworthy personalities to the classic question: "Why did the chicken cross the road?" Here they are:

Kindergarten teacher: To get to the other side.

Plato: For the greater good.

Aristotle: It is the nature of chickens to cross roads.

Karl Marx: It was a historical inevitability.

Capt. James T. Kirk: To boldly go where no chicken has gone before.

Saddam Hussein: This was an unprovoked act of rebellion. We were justified in dropping 50 tons of nerve gas on it.

Hippocrates: Because of an excess of phlegm in its pancreas.

"... Martin Luther King Jr.: I envision a world where all chickens will be free to cross roads without having their motives called into question.

Moses: And God came down from the Heavens, and He said unto the chicken, "Thou shalt cross the road." And the chicken crossed the road, and there was much rejoicing.

* * *

Fox Mulder: You saw it cross the road with your own eyes. How many more chickens have to cross the road before you believe it?

Richard Nixon: The chicken did not cross the road. I repeat, the chicken did not cross the road.

Machiavelli: The point is that the chicken crossed the road. Who cares why? The end of crossing the road justifies whatever motive there was.

Sigmund Freud: The fact that you are at all concerned that the chicken crossed the road reveals your underlying sexual insecurity.

Bill Gates: I will soon release the new Chicken Office 2002, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents and balance your checkbook.

Oliver Stone: The question is not, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" Rather, it is, "Who was crossing the road at the same time, whom did we overlook in our haste to observe the chicken crossing?"

Charles Darwin: Chickens, over great periods of time, have been naturally selected and evolved over time in such a way that they are now genetically endowed with the capabilities required to cross roads.

Albert Einstein: Whether the chicken crossed the road or the road moved beneath the chicken depends upon your frame of reference. (Duh?!?)

Buddha: Asking this question denies your own chicken nature.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: The chicken did not cross the road. It transcended it.

Ernest Hemingway: To die. In the rain.

Bill Clinton: I did not, repeat, did not, have sexual relations with the chicken.

* * *

Erap: *Ang* media *ang may kasalanan diyan*!

Miriam Defensor-Santiago: Aha! I know it! That chicken crossed the road to provoke me. I move to permanently hold in contempt that chicken. I request a restraining order, Your Honor, so that the chicken would not be able to cross the road again!

Ramon Revilla: "I concur, Your Honor. You see, *may timbangan ako ng manok sa bahay. Doon ko nga nalaman na* 96 grams *ang* 1,000 *na* bills *ng* P1,000 to make P1 million. See 96 grams, 96 grams *talaga! Malapit 'yun sa isang kilo...eh sa 96 grams talaga eh...Pero huwag nyo akong tanungin kung ilang kilo ang manok na nag-*cross *ng* road. *Eh, di ko nakilo eh.* I guess, *takot siyang pakilo. Baka kulang siya ng* 96 grams. In short, *kulang siya ng isang kilo*."

Emma Lim: *Para po uminom ng* iced tea, Your Honor!

Chavit Singson: *Eh, nililito nyo lang po ako*, Your Honor. *Di ko alam kung bakit nag-*cross *'yun ng* road. *Wala naman sa* ledger *ko kung bakit. Nililito nyo lang po ako. Nililito nyo lang po talaga ako.*

Clarissa Ocampo: It crossed the road to go to the office of, I am sorry, Mr. Estelito Mendoza.

Estelito Mendoza: Whether I will quit as a defense lawyer of the President or not shall depend upon the decision of the President himself, not the crossing of the road by the chicken.

Raul Roco: It is a noble profession to be a chicken and to cross that road!

Chief Justice Hilario Davide: Unless there is an objection, the chicken can cross that road.

Peddler of dreams

YOUNGBLOOD

Vincent Michael Simbulan

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

FORREST Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates." But I have always felt that life was more like a comic book. At least my life anyway.

When I was 6 or 7 years old, my parents would take me along on their frequent trips to Dau, Pampanga, where PX goods were being sold, thanks to the American bases that were still around then. That was where my lifelong love affair with the graphic novel—or comic book, as it is more widely known—began.

Comic books were a source of excitement in a mundane world. I often dreamed of what it would be like to live in the fantastic world of my childhood heroes. I dreamed of the chance to save the world and bring hope to those who needed it. I dreamed of heroic feats and making a difference.

I was mesmerized by the worlds of Superman, Spiderman and all the other colorful characters whose exploits were the stuff of legend to my young mind. Their world was simple and clear-cut. The good guys wore white and the bad guys wore black. The hero always won in the end and walked off into the sunset with his lady love.

In fact I credit comics for my optimism which, as some of my more cynical friends would say, borders on the delusional. I don't know about that, but I've just always held the belief that life is fair and bad things may happen but it all comes out right in the end.

But times changed and I grew up. New worlds opened up as I began reading more "legitimate" forms of literature. With age came the realization that the world was not defined in black and white. Sometimes the villains wore white, the hero would fail and the lady would walk away alone.

I learned that the world was filled with shades of gray and the challenges I faced were no longer simple or clear-cut. I was slowly losing my idealism and sense of wonder. The "real world" always has a way of bringing starry-eyed people who have their head in the clouds back down to earth.

But I also learned that one did not have to be superhuman to perform feats of heroism. Anyone who stands up for his principles and has the courage to do the right thing can be a hero. In fact, I found heroism all around me: in my parents as they struggled to raise their children and keep the family together, and in total strangers who would stop to help anyone in distress. In moments of weakness, when doing the right thing is in direct conflict with what we want, that is the moment that defines heroism in our lives.

I discovered comics that reflected my maturing sensibilities. A new breed of writers, mostly British, began to invade the scene and the number of comics that dealt with serious issues for older readers began to proliferate. Superman was replaced by Sandman, and Spiderman gave way to Strangers in Paradise and Moonshadow.

It is often difficult to convince people that comic books are not just for children or the child at heart. Contrary to popular belief, comics has evolved into a truly impressive medium that can convey a wide range of stories and themes. There are comics that deal with universal issues, with love, loss and the struggle to find a place in the world. Where saving the universe takes a backseat to saving enough to feed your family or where hiding your secret identity is as much an issue as hiding your sexual identity.

When I was 13 years old, my parents decided to turn my hobby into a business. We began selling comics in the Alabang area and Comic Quest was born.

It was a dream come true, and I was the envy of all my fellow comic buffs. Not only was I able to read all the comics I wanted, but I was also able to meet all the people who shared my love for the medium. Many of the people whom I now call my friends, I met through our store.

Fifteen years later, I find myself looking back in awe. It seems as if the years have flown by so fast and I never had the chance to catch my breath. I am no longer the 13-year-old boy, and my tastes have matured and refined with the years.

Some would say that becoming jaded is inevitable with the passage of time, but I try hard not to let that happen to me. Comics may not have kept me young, but at least I can claim to remain young at heart. Besides, as someone once put it, "Growing up is overrated." Truth to tell, when I was very young I couldn't wait to grow up and now I can see that perhaps growing older is not all it has been cracked up to be. It's so easy to lose faith and suffer disillusionment with the weight of the passing years.

But a certain part of me stubbornly remains the wide-eyed child. When I look at our younger customers and find the awe and sense of wonder dancing in their eyes, I remember the dreams I had and somehow I feel renewed faith in things that are not necessarily true or even real. After all, comic books are all about symbols and serve as a metaphor for all that we see around us. If you believe a man can fly then perhaps you can believe and achieve the impossible. But the first step is to dream.

It is the greatest gift to be able to live one's dream, but more so to be able to kindle the dreams of others. I realize that in the mundane world, I am just another businessman. But in the eyes of the kids, I'm a peddler of dreams. And I'm happy about it.

Vincent Michael Simbulan, 28, has sold comics for 15 years and looks forward to doing so for 15 years more, but he still dreams of looking up to the sky and seeing a flash of blue and red.

Livestock, natural resources and industry

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE SPANIARDS, according to Diaz Trechuelo in "Historia General de Filipinas," brought cattle from the Americas to the Philippines and smaller species of livestock from China. These acclimated well, and by the second half of the 18th century large cattle ranches were supplying meat to Manila and Cavite. The war of 1762 decimated the cattle population but later the Sociedad Economica helped to revive the industry.

Horses, asses and mules were also brought over. The horses multiplied in Cebu, Panay and in some provinces of Luzon where Spaniards resided. According to Fr. Juan Jose Delgado, the horses were "big, beautiful and fat." Many were used to pull the carriages that traversed the streets of Manila. But their increase was such that horsemeat was exported to China where it was much appreciated. Asses and mules were less useful because they were not needed as a means of transport. Numerous rivers served as highways.

Sheep, which were also brought over, were never abundant because the climate made it unnecessary to wear wool.

Carabaos, a species of buffalo, were used then as now as beasts of burden and for agriculture. There was as well an abundance of pigs, fattened on coconuts and *camote*, whose meat was consumed in great quantity. In Manila and other population centers, this meat was always available. As a curious note, pigs were sold in the Visayas by measuring them with the palm of one's hand from the ears to their tail. The Subanos in Mindanao traded a pig for a length of copper wire that could encircle the animal in its fattest part. There was an abundance of wild boars especially in Mindanao because the religion forbade their consumption.

Even before the conquest, there were already some sheep and goats in the Philippines, originally from China. Deer too were numerous and supplied the populace with the leather necessary for footwear. Curative powers were attributed to their antlers.

Finally, the civet cat should be mentioned because it supplied an aromatic substance that was very much in demand in the East, from where it was exported.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Philippines was considered a poor country because it was producing little silver. There was a certain amount of gold in the form of placers that the people exploited, obtaining more than P100,000 annually, according to Murillo Velarde. Toward the middle of the 18th century, the Spaniards tried to develop the mines at Paracale that were already known in the previous century but the difficulties involved in the venture caused its abandonment. New attempts did not meet with success either because the technical means were unavailable.

Major emphasis was placed in the 18th century to the exploitation of iron deposits. In the middle of the century, there was an effort to develop the mines at Mambulao (Mambuklao?) in Camarines Norte, but its distance from Manila and transportation difficulties caused the project to be abandoned. Instead the mines in the mountains of San Isidro (province of Tondo), nearer Manila, a district with a cool climate, surrounded by excellent soil for agriculture and for breeding cattle, and with abundant materials for construction was exploited. These deposits yielded iron that was 75-percent pure but the project failed due to the lack of master ironworkers. An attempt was made to import them from China but the necessary authorization could not be obtained and so the mine was abandoned in 1758.

The industries, or more properly crafts, that existed in the Philippines in the 18th century were foundries of iron and bronze and offshoots of agriculture and cattle breeding. In 1762, under the direction of the engineer Miguel Antonio Gomez, there were iron foundries producing plows, bullets and grenades, horseshoe, and iron balls of the same quality as those from China. The English invasion that occurred in September of that year wrecked the ironworks. Later Simon de Anda brought with him from Spain two master ironmongers and the necessary equipment to reactivate the industry, but unfortunately both died, frustrating his plans. Governor Basco y Vargas was greatly interested in the development of the Royal Foundry in Manila that was producing bronze cannons for the ships of the Departamento de San Blas in Mexico and for local use. Iron foundries were established during his term in La Laguna de Bay, making bullets of different caliber, plows and a type of hoe.

During Basco's tenure, four Spanish residents offered to develop all the iron mines in the country, in accordance with the specifications they presented in 1779. They wanted a monopoly in both the mining and production of iron products for 10 years and requested permission to import the master ironmongers from China. They also requested permission to establish the foundries in areas they considered most convenient. The governor did not accept the conditions and decided to allow the government to run the enterprise with some good results in 1780.

However, the royal decree mandated that the mines be exploited by the private sector. As a result, the Sta. Ines mines were awarded to a *mestiza sangley*, Doña Ma. Isabel Careaga, and the Angat mountains to another Manila resident. The production of both mines did not yield enough to cover the needs, not for lack of iron but due to deficient methods. The situation continued until the end of the 18th century.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Valerio murder

JUN N. Valerio, government corporate counsel, was shot several times in front of his residence in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, on March 18, 2000. He was rushed to the St. Luke's Medical Center where he died.

The National Bureau of Investigation said Valerio's wife, Milagros, was behind the killing. The NBI investigation report said Milagros was having an illicit relationship with SPO3 Antonio Cabador. The report also named a certain Martin Jimenez as the gunman. Geronimo Quintana and Samuel Baran were tagged as accomplices.

Jimenez, Quintana and Baran were arrested and detained at the NBI detention cell, but Milagros left her Quezon City residence and fled to Davao City. Cabador also could not be found in his home in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. The house was padlocked.

On June 28, the Department of Justice filed murder charges against Cabador, Jimenez, Baran and Quintana. Milagros was charged with parricide. The cases were assigned to Judge Jaime Salazar of Quezon City RTC Branch 103.

Milagros filed a petition for review with the DOJ on July 3, and the court ordered the suspension of the arraignment.

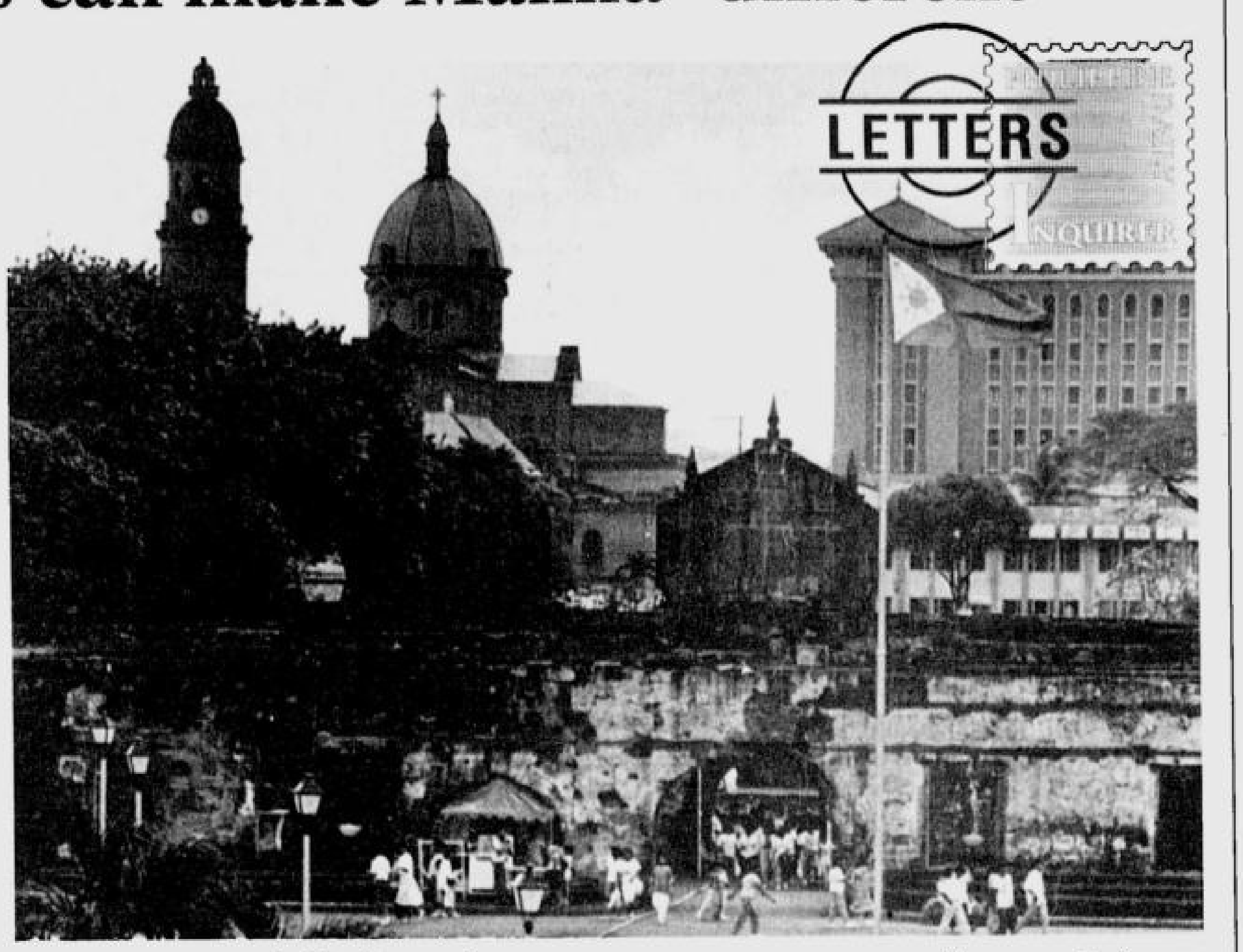
On July 11, Milagros voluntarily surrendered to the Region 11 Office of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Davao City. The next day, the court allowed her temporary detention in the regional office's detention cell, pending resolution of the petition for review.

On Nov. 27, lawyer Laarni Valerio, private complainant and Jun's sister, filed a motion asking for the transfer of Milagros to the Quezon City Jail. The court denied it on Dec. 5, again citing the pending petition with the DOJ.

Case status: The court cannot yet arraign the accused until the DOJ resolves the petition for review filed by Milagros. Jimenez, Baran and Quintana are presently detained at the Quezon City Jail. Milagros is still in the custody of the Davao Police. Cabador remains at large.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Intramuros can make Manila 'different'



THE COVER story of Asiaweek last Dec. 15 titled, "The Best of Asia's Cities," paid tribute to 10 countries in Asia for preserving their cultural heritage. The story failed to mention the Philippines. This brought to my mind the painful memory of Intramuros.

The writers of the story focused on how these cities had struggled and succeeded through the past 10 decades in harmonizing the need to preserve the past and the urge to adapt to modern trends in architecture and city planning.

The revival of these cities proves that the old style of tourism promotion using sun, sand and beaches is not enough to catch the attention of the traveler. In our times this must give way to cultural and ecological tourism, something that makes a city unique and "different."

"*Espana es diferente*" was Spain's magic logo in the 1970s and 1980s, and it revolutionalized its tourism industry. This, plus the millions of pesetas invested by the government to harmonize the past and the present, created a boom in tourism. Up to now Spain is visited by 50 million tourists yearly.

Singapore must be credited for restoring the old Portuguese enclaves. This made the city "different," and attracted a good number of tourists. And so did the other cities mentioned of the cover story.

Intramuros can make Manila unique and "different" from any other city in Asia. The Walled City has the potential to become so because it has such a rich cultural, historical and architectural past.

Should Intramuros be transformed into the "tidy city" that it was before the war, it would attract tourists by the thousands or millions and, eventually, become one of the best money-making sources for the government. But before that happens, Intramuros needs a lot of housecleaning and care.—**PEDRO G. GALENDE, OSA, director, San Agustin Museum**

A radical in the court

IF there are radicals in the country, there is a radical inside the impeachment court in the person of Rep. Joker Arroyo. If Arroyo could only dictate to Chief Justice Hilario Davide what to do, he would. He has already convicted the President several times since the impeachment trial started, forgetting that the verdict of conviction or acquittal will only be rendered by the jurors and not by him or by the Chief Justice.

Some have said that maybe Arroyo is fond of eating *sili*, being a Bicolano, and that is why he is very hot. I am a Bicolano, too, and I eat "Bicol express" a lot, but I am a very calm person.

I advise Arroyo to be calm and keep in mind that he is inside a court that is full of people, some of whom are more intelligent than he. His behavior, therefore, is very improper. Now that he is a congressman and a prosecutor, he must depart from the radicalism which he espoused for a long time.—**ROSENDO R. ENUENDO, part-owner, Renante Marketing, Daraga, Albay**

Symptoms of a decaying culture

WE, the undersigned, strongly condemn the recent acts of terrorism in our country, which claimed the lives of many of our countrymen, most of whom are women and children. The Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila, and the slaying of Fr. Benjamin Innocencio last Dec. 28 in Jolo, Sulu are symptoms of a culture that is decaying to the core.

The perpetrators of this crime acted in such a cowardly manner and utter disregard for the sanctity of life and peace. The very manner in which the bombings were done—intentional, precise and systematic—only betrays the evil in the heart of these people.

Father Innocencio was slain in broad daylight within the confines of the church and among the people he loved and served well. There are many reasons for the killings but no amount of excuse or empty rhetoric can ever justify the snuffing out of human lives. Since when has the taking away of human lives ever been the best way to make a political point? The families of the victims will never be compensated enough for their painful loss.

At this point, we call for vigilance and sobriety. The violence that envelops us during these times of uncertainly brought about by political chaos and economic decay will tend to make us all desperate. This is a time when the people of justice and light must come together and illumine the darkened state we are in.

Let those responsible for this crazy and evil act of terrorism be brought to justice. They must pay the price for their demonic acts. We call on all government institutions responsible for preserving peace and order to act swiftly so that people behind these barbaric acts can be stopped.

Our God is a God of love and kindness, of justice and power, but not of violence. And we servants of the Almightly God have come together to affirm this truth and to deplore the destruction that has come upon God's beloved people. It is our collective hope that peace and understanding will prevail, that love and human kindness will win. May the perpetrators of this ghastly crime see the ultimate justice of God and may the victims and their families find strength and courage to sustain them through these difficult times.

May the blood of Fr. Benjamin Innocencio and the victims of the Dec. 30 Metro Manila bombings lay the seeds of courage that will later bear the fruit of victory against all those who seek to suppress truth and destroy human dignity.

May God's peace and justice sustain our lives and prevail in our land.—**FR. CRISPIN B. VARQUEZ, Diocese of Tagbilaran; REV. EMMANUEL G. ORENDAIN, UCCP-Ellinwood Malate Church; FR. LINCOLN CARABAÑA, Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary; PASTOR HANIEL JOSES T. TANGANAS, UCCP-Cosmopolitan Church; FR. EMER D. PADILLO, UCCP-Ellinwood Malate Church; FR. ROQUE C. VILLANUEVA, Diocese of Iba; REV. CESAR QUIMANO, UCCP-Ellinwood Malate Church; REV. NOEL A. GALVEZ, UCCP-Tondo; PASTOR PERFECTO GIANAN JR., UCCP-EMC, M. Francisco St., Pasay Outreach; BRO. LITO M. CARANDANG, UCCP-Ellinwood Malate Church; FR. LITO C. MALIBARAN, Sta. Clara Parish, Sto. Tomas, Batangas; FR. ROBERTO REYES, Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman**

Barriers to land distribution

THIS refers to the news item titled, "Bishop joins call to install farmers in Negros estate" by Carla Gomez which appeared in the Dec. 23, 2000 issue of the INQUIRER.

Landholdings owned by MJ Lacson Development Co. Inc. in Barangays Odiong and Magallon, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental, were placed under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program under the compulsory acquisition (CA) scheme. Potential beneficiaries were identified and after thorough screening CLOAs were issued to 106 qualified farmer-beneficiaries.

Before the beneficiaries could be installed, several petitions were filed before the Department of Agrarian Reform Provincial Office in Negros Occidental. These petitions consisted of the following: Petition for Inclusion of Regular Farmworkers and Exclusion of CLOA Holders by MJ Lacson Development Co. Inc.; Petition for Exclusion of Thirty-Seven Regular Farmworkers Submitted by MJ Lacson Dev. Co. Inc., Petition for Inclusion by Jose Winston Cordova, et al.; Petition for Revalidation of CLOA Holders and Cancellation of CLOAs by Julito Caduhada, et al.; Issuance of An Installation Order in Favor of the 106 Holders of CLOAs by Redilma Dechosa, et al. and Petition for Retention under RA 6657 by MJ Lacson Development Co. Inc. These petitions were docketed as ALI Case Nos. A-0600-0648-2000 to A-0600-0652, respectively.

Because the landholdings and the parties involved in the petitions are the same, these were consolidated and resolved in an order signed by the DAR director for Region 6 on Nov. 10, 2000. However, before the order could become final and executory, MJ Lacson Development Co. Inc. filed on Dec. 8, 2000 a motion for reconsideration. Thus the installation of the farmer-beneficiaries cannot be done because the order of the regional director has not become final and executory and cannot yet be implemented. Further, on Dec. 21, 2000 resolution was made on the motion for reconsideration. Copy of the orders has been furnished the parties through registered mail.

We know these farmer-beneficiaries are eager to be installed in their respective areas. Like them, we are also eager to have them installed. In fact, this office has been very transparent with them and all parties for that matter, in the processing and resolution of these cases. But we are guided by laws and rules and we cannot just implement the program without going through the procedures embodied in these guidelines. All we can do, therefore, at this point is wait until the order dated Dec. 21, 2000 becomes final and executory so that we can implement the same.—**JOCELYN L. POSADAS, chief, regional legal task force, Negros Occidental-Guimaras, Department of Agrarian Reform, Regional Office 6-Iloilo City**

Better senators next time

THANK God for the present political crisis, the people of this country seem to have finally awakened to the despicable manner politicians use them for their own selfish ends. There is a fast-growing sentiment against the present officials of government whose politics (again, thanks to the ongoing impeachment proceedings) is so repugnant and disgusting. Everywhere people say they will not vote for the present crop of senators, whether they vote for or against the conviction of President Estrada.

There is now a crying need for an alternative senatorial slate—let's call it the "new guardians of the realm"—composed of apolitical leaders old and young who will change and transform the coming Congress with their clean and honest fervor for a cleansed government. This ticket may be composed of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., former Sen. Eddie Ilarde, former SMBA Chair Dick Gordon, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, Mayor Edward Hagedorn, former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas, and for Mindanao, Professor Abbas, and lawyer Ely Pamatong. Other names are acceptable at this time like Cory Quirino and those who were part of the golden years of the Philippine Senate such as Eva Estrada Kalaw and Rene Espina.

Will the spiritual and moral groups, including the business groups, take it from here?—**JOHNNY ANDALIS, 61 Doña Soledad Ave., Better Living, Parañaque City**

Protecting the President at what cost?

THE PERSONAL lawyer of President Estrada, Fernando Chua, was reported to have told Clarissa Ocampo of Equitable PCI Bank during the alleged attempt to transfer the P500 million from "Jose Velarde" to Jaime Dichaves that the bank must protect the President, meaning that the cover-up must be clean.

Of course, we all know that it is the integrity of the presidency which determines the nation's well-being. Hence the need to protect it. But it becomes a different matter altogether when the occupant of that office gets involved in irregularities, in which case the nation's well-being is assured only by the uncovering of the irregularities and the rendering of justice.

That is what the impeachment trial is for: to save the nation by uncovering the truth and cleaning up the mess. But what do we find instead? Senator-judges who are incapable of understanding that small but significant point and who are in fact more concerned about their political future than about the nation's well-being.

What brought out such stupidity if not Erap's public announcement of "confidence of an acquittal" which could not have been anything else but a warning? It very well shows how the tentacles of corruption have ensnared so many of our public officials.

Now, considering that the people's electoral vote hasn't protected them from dubious characters who go around with their deceitful ways, what other measures are available for redress when we know very well that the law is easily bought by them? Will we allow them to manipulate even the ongoing impeachment trial?

Public officials are supposed to know that their deceitful ways will only bring the people to violence. Are they willing to sacrifice the country's stability just to save their own skins? Only those with little minds—and overblown egos—will be so blind as to succumb to that error.—**ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, Las Piñas City**

The impeachment case against Quirino

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

AS the nation awaits with bated breath and increasing tension the result of the impeachment trial of President Estrada, many Filipinos may be wishing for a simpler process and quicker outcome. As it is, the exchange of arguments between the prosecution and defense (both with their share of legal luminaries) afford the man in the street an instant legal education through a *telenovela*-like series. One hopes that the mass education in law will lead to greater awareness among the citizens of the primacy of the rule of law in a democracy and not necessarily just litigation for its own sake.

The seesawing arguments between the protagonists in the impeachment trial tell us that the search for truth and justice can be painful, tiresome and cumbersome. But the process has to be pursued if Philippine democracy must thrive once more.

The experience is not exactly novel for the country. The first serious attempt to impeach a Philippine president took place more than 50 years ago during the Quirino presidency. Apart from extensive media coverage, a great divide separates the Quirino situation from the Estrada fiasco.

Firstly, the impeachment resolution against President Elpidio Quirino was filed on April 4, 1949 by only one congressman from Samar, Agripino Escareal, who was a follower of then Senate President Jose Avelino, Quirino's bitter political foe. According to historian Carlos Quirino and biographer Salvador Lopez, politics was behind the five major charges. These were misappropriation of public funds, including two counts of squandering at least P88,000 for repair of Quirino's residence on Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard when he was still vice president; abuse of power in the purchase of Russian cement; intervening to make the Bureau of Internal Revenue abandon its claim for war tax profits, including vested interest on the part of the President's brother in insurance contracts covering government buildings; and abetting the smuggling activities of relatives and friends.

Secondly, the allegations were immediately investigated by a committee of seven members of the House of Representatives named by Speaker Eugenio Perez and chaired by Rep. Lorenzo Sumulong. The investigation was conducted by legal luminaries, with Solicitor General Felix Bautista handling the defense of the President and lawyer Antonio Barredo leading the prosecution. The whole investigation by Congress was completed in less than a month's time. On May 2, 1949, the House voted 58 to 9 for the dismissal of the charges. Interestingly, even the Nacionalista Party members and some pro-Avelino representatives voted for dismissal. While the Sumulong committee was not unanimous in its voting on the first two charges of misappropriation of public funds, the committee was unanimous in its verdict that the other charges were groundless.

Thirdly, although the attempt to impeach Quirino failed, the President himself humbly admitted that it damaged his presidency.

A lot of fuss was made about Quirino's P5,000 wooden bed and the traditional chamber pot (*orinola*) for his grandson that were bought by the interior decorator for the use of the presidential family. According to the testimony of Amalia Pastor, the interior decorator, former First Lady Trinidad Roxas took the bed from Malacañang when she left after President Manuel Roxas' death. Thus the Malacañang staff had to buy Quirino a new bed. Since he was a widower, his other family members often kept him and his daughter Vicky Quirino, who performed the role of first lady, company in Malacañang. Somehow, the grapevine put the wooden bed and chamber pot story together so that in some accounts the latter was given the pricey tag of P5,000. (The *orinola* was stainless steel, a new material at that time, and it actually cost P250.) Quirino himself confessed in his autobiography that the impeachment attempt was a crucial point in his political life. Though it failed, he later wrote: "The charges had done as much political damage to me as if I had been myself impeached."

True enough, after the charges and countercharges of graft and corruption momentarily ceased, Quirino again had to face his enemies who questioned his exercise of emergency powers. By that time, the Liberal Party had already split into two factions, the Quirino wing and the Avelino wing.

Finally, another major difference in the two impeachment cases involves the contrast between the two presidents. Quirino during his presidency remained faithful to the memory of his wife, Alicia Syquia Quirino, who was shot during the Japanese occupation of Manila. Quirino, a widower, was surrounded by gorgeous Filipino socialites but never was he seriously linked to anyone of them. He was known to be a natty dresser and had a flair for dancing, but such were his only vices—if they can be called that. He was an inveterate traveler, but his trips were undertaken in the course of conducting affairs of the state, not to have extramarital flings. He died in 1956 in a modest house in Novaliches built from his savings as a public servant.

Perhaps, the impeachment trial of Erap will erase any stain remaining from the impeachment resolution brought against Quirino. Then the Filipinos would have a better perspective on the impeachment trial and who deserves to be meted out the punishment of conviction. And only then can we claim that we have a working and mature democracy.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is a professor of political science and once held the Elpidio Quirino Chair of International Relations at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Amend the Clean Air Act?

THE DISPOSAL of garbage, especially for megacities like Metro Manila, is a complex problem. It is a problem that will always confront people in a high-waste society.

The government's approach of disposing waste by shipping them to other places is repugnant. The potential for underground water and marine water pollution is great. The government should adopt the hierarchy of goals used in other countries for solid waste: reduce waste, reuse as many things as possible, recycle and compost as much waste as possible, incinerate waste that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled, or composted and bury what is left in landfills.

Perhaps, it is time that the government considered amending the Clean Air Act. Anyway, where can we get "clean air" with the tons of stinking garbage around the metropolis?—**BARBARA DJ TIO, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila**

Lying and Filipinos

THE ARTICLE "When lying becomes standard office procedure" (PDI, 12/20/00) makes some interesting and important points.

The assertion was made that Filipinos sometimes tell lies to avoid confrontation. This is only partially true. Filipinos want to avoid confrontation if they feel they are being put on the defensive. In an offensive situation, where the Filipino feels that truth is on his side, he is, in my experience, more confrontational than his counterpart in any other Asian country.

To be fair to the Filipino, appalling examples are set by government. As we all know, a horrendously clear-cut case was recently provided by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports whose lies were not supported by the Land Bank.

Is the Filipino going to tolerate this nonsense any longer?—**NEIL HONEYMAN, P.O. Box 173, 6100 Bacolod City**

Reducing agricultural imports

IMPORTATION is disadvantageous to our economy. Why? It results in a wasteful expenditure of dollars, which decreases the value of the peso. The moment the value of the peso decreases, the prices of commodities skyrocket.

Besides importation benefits foreign, not local, farmers.

What the government should do is provide our farmers irrigation systems, enough capital to buy fertilizers, pesticides, etc. so as to boost their yield.

Our government has plenty of money for politics, junkets and the like. Why then does it not have enough money to help our farmers increase their yield so as to reduce considerably, if not dispense completely, with agricultural importation?

If only this could be done in our country, I'm sure importation which benefits foreign farmers as well as increases the prices of commodities, causing untold suffering on the part of our people, would be a thing of the past.—**CARLOS SANTOS GEGANTOCA, Doña Paz Village, Phase I, Cruzada, Legazpi City**

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Indonesian billionaire to pay record $8.6M fine for Clinton

RIADY

WASHINGTON—Indonesian billionaire James Riady has agreed to pay a record $8.6 million criminal fine and plead guilty to using corporate funds from his foreign Lippo Group to reimburse contributors to Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign for the presidency, the justice department announced Thursday night.

Riady, a key figure in the campaign finance scandal, pledged $1 million in 1992 to support the then-Arkansas governor's campaign, the government said.

Foreign campaign contributions are illegal under US law.

Under terms of a plea bargain filed in US District Court in Los Angeles, Riady agreed to surrender and come to this country at an unspecified future date even though there is no extradition treaty between Indonesia and the United States.

An FBI summary released last year said Democratic fundraiser John Huang, a Riady employee, alleged that Riady had told Clinton, while he was Arkansas governor, during a limousine ride that he wanted to raise $1 million for his campaign. Huang himself pleaded guilty to a campaign financing felony and has been cooperating with the government since August 1999.

In April, Clinton told federal investigators that he did not have "a specific recollection of what the conversation was, or this fact of the car ride." He said he only remembered seeing Riady "sometime in '92 after I became the nominee," and that Riady pledged to help his campaign.

Riady agreed to plead guilty to a felony charge of conspiring to defraud the United States.

In addition, LippoBank California, a California state-chartered bank affiliated with Lippo Group, agreed to plead guilty to 86 misdemeanor accounts charging that its agents, Riady and Huang, made illegal foreign campaign contributions from 1988 through 1994.

Riady is one of 26 people and two corporations so far charged by Justice's campaign finance task force since it was established four years ago.

Riady also agreed to cooperate with the government's continuing investigation.

The total of $8,610,000 in fines is the largest ever imposed in a campaign finance case in US history, the department said.

A justice department official, requesting anonymity, said federal sentencing guidelines would not call for a prison term for a first time offender like Riady for this type of felony conviction. *AP*

NEW NOMINEE REUTERS

US President-elect George W. Bush (background) watches as Elaine Chao speaks following her nomination to the position of Labor Secretary, Jan. 11. Chao was a former deputy secretary of the department of transportation.

Survivors of No Gun Ri dismiss US Army findings as whitewash

SEOUL—Survivors of the killing of refugees by American soldiers at No Gun Ri angrily denounced as a whitewash the US Army's report that there was no evidence that the soldiers were ordered to kill.

"It's full of excuses," said Park Hee-sook, a 66-year-old woman who said she witnessed the incident at the South Korean hamlet early in the Korean War. "The Americans need to be more frank about their past wrongdoings."

Survivors had been pressing for an explicit apology for what happened at No Gun Ri as well as compensation for their suffering, but got neither.

US President Bill Clinton expressed regret that Korean civilians lost their lives at No Gun Ri, but stopped short of a formal apology. He said a memorial would be built to honor "these and all other innocent Korean civilians" killed during the 1950-53 war and said the United States would establish a scholarship fund in their memory.

"We don't need the scholarship and monument," said 62-year-old Chun Choon-ja. "We want a more sincere apology, not a vague statement of regret, from the US government."

"I wish I could see President Clinton right now and ask him what he is talking about and tell him that he doesn't know what we went through at No Gun Ri," Chun said.

"Any final report that does not deal with the responsibility of commanders has a serious defect," said Chung Koo-do, spokesperson for the survivors' group, said. "It can't be construed as anything other than a Pentagon attempt to whitewash the massacre."

About 150 protesters shouted slogans in support of the survivors' cause at a weekly anti-US rally Friday in front of the US military's main compound in Seoul.

"Washington's attitude toward the No Gun Ri massacre is another barbarity that can never be forgiven," said a leaflet distributed by student protesters, whose chief demand is the withdrawal of US forces from South Korea.

In its report, the US Army cited "conflicting statements and misunderstandings" about whether orders were given, but its investigators concluded that no oral or written orders were given to "shoot and kill" South Korean civilians at that time. *AP*

US-based Chinese experts say papers on Tiananmen true

NEW YORK—Several US-based China experts on Thursday defended the authenticity of newly published documents depicting Chinese leaders squabbling over how to suppress the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, but questioned the suggestion that their release could spur democratic reforms.

"I know that the documents are authentic. That will be proven as time goes by," said Andrew Nathan, who co-edited the documents released last week.

The documents—which were branded as fake by China—picture the country's leaders in turmoil as more than 1 million protesters gathered in Beijing's main square. Hundreds were killed and thousands arrested when the Army cracked down on June 4, 1989. The papers appear to support the theory by many scholars that hardliners urged the late leader Deng Xiaoping to use force out of fear that the communist regime could collapse, while reformers called for a more democratic solution.

The release of the documents, coming as China is grappling with problems stemming from open-market reforms and pondering leadership succession, threatens to aggravate strains between reformists and hardliners.

The documents, said to be leaked by a disaffected civil servant who has remained anonymous, were published in the United States by New York-based publisher PublicAffairs in a 489-page book, "The Tiananmen Papers."

Excerpts in Chinese were published in a Taiwanese daily, the United Daily News, and the book will be available in Chinese in March or April, said Nathan, a political science professor at Columbia University.

Two days after the documents were published, China said they were fraudulent and suggested their release was aimed at destabilizing the country.

The papers' authenticity was proved by physical examination of them, analyses and cross-checking of the contents, as well as extensive background checks on the person who leaked them, Nathan said during a discussion organized by the Council on Foreign Affairs.

"The most important leg of the authentication has to do with the compiler—who he is, the story that he told about how the documents came out, his demeanor and many aspects about the compiler which included things we learned from him directly, as well as . . . by quietly checking up on him elsewhere," Nathan said.

The compiler, who used the pseudonym Zhang Liang, resides outside China and said he chose to stay anonymous because he intends one day to return to Beijing.

Zhang, who appears to be a reform-minded communist, expressed hopes that the papers would "make a fundamental contribution to building democratic government in China."

"The end of communism in China seems a foregone conclusion," Zhang wrote in the book's preface. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, January 13, 2001
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	*Heb 4:12-16*
Gospel:	*Mk 2:13-17*

When Jesus went out again beside the lake, a crowd came to him and he taught them. As he walked along, he saw a tax collector sitting in his office. This was Levi, the son of Alpheus. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And Levi got up and followed him.

And it so happened that while Jesus was eating in Levi's house, tax collectors and sinners were sitting with him and his disciples for there were indeed many of them. But there were also teachers of the Law of the Pharisees' party, among those who followed Jesus, and when they saw him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why! He eats with tax collectors and sinners!"

Jesus heard them and answered, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary:

In whose house did they go dining, Levi's or Jesus'? Albert Nolan who wrote that gem of a book Jesus Before Christianity suggests it was at the house of Jesus. So he had a house after all? (Whatever happened to "Foxes have holes . . .?") Perhaps they have a point. It was Jesus who invited Levi to follow him, and—by simple logic—to eat at table with him. If we are to believe that Jesus was the partying type, he must have had a place to invite people to. He may in fact have invited pharisees as well, except that some of them may have turned down his invitation because they did not want to be seen dining with people of ill-repute. They were more concerned about being known as birds with "different feathers." Too bad for them, they didn't get to witness the magic in Jesus' dinners. They were dinners that set people like Levi into a whole new direction in life.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: BILL OF RIGHTS)/ REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Rights under custodial investigation—The Constitution plainly declares that any person under investigation for the commission of an offense shall have the right: (1) to remain silent; (2) to have competent and independent counsel preferably of his own choice; and (3) to be informed of such rights. These rights cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel. An investigation begins when it is no longer a general inquiry but starts to focus on a particular person as a suspect, i.e., when the police investigator starts interrogating or exacting a confession from the suspect in connection with an alleged offense. The moment the police try to elicit admissions or confessions or even plain information from a person suspected of having committed an offense, he should at that juncture be assisted by counsel, unless he waives the right in writing and in the presence of counsel. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Valdez, G. R. No. 129296, September 25, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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PRESIDENTIAL SEX SCANDAL

Bizarre libel trial of Taiwan veep begins

TAIPEI—In a packed courtroom Friday, the vice president's lawyers began their arguments in a bizarre libel case, accusing a news magazine of falsely reporting that the politician spread rumors about a presidential sex scandal.

The high-profile case has riveted Taiwanese, and the accused publication, the Journalist, has said the trial is an important test for Taiwan's young democracy and press freedoms.

The controversy began in November when the respected weekly reported that Vice President Annette Lu called the magazine's editor in chief, Yang Chao, and said the president is having an affair with an aide.

"She said the president's wife told her about the affair and asked her to keep a close eye on the president," Yang testified Friday in Taipei District Court.

Yang, a respected journalist, also argued that he did not need to report sensational news to attract attention and make a name for himself.

"What's my motive for fabricating news to attack her?" he asked.

The magazine decided to report about the phone call in a cover story after it thoroughly checked other sources and consulted with reporters whom Lu had frequently called, Yang said.

The Harvard-educated Lu, a former political dissident and pioneer in Taiwan's feminist movement, has a reputation for being outspoken and unpredictable. She did not attend the court hearing.

Since taking office in May, Lu has complained that her job as vice president was not challenging. Many suspect that she's not getting along with the president, though both sides have said they have strong relations.

The Journalist report said Lu was believed to have spread the rumor to help an impeachment campaign against the president. The call was made at the height of the campaign, which later fizzled because a lack of public support.

The magazine's lawyers have a serious problem: a lack of evidence. The Journalist once said it had phone records and a recording of Lu's conversation. But this week, the publication admitted it didn't have the evidence. *AP*

CHIEF Secretary for Administration Anson Chan dots the eye of a dragon as she takes part in the opening ceremony of a new customs house at Hong Kong's Kwai Chung container terminal, Jan. 12. Hong Kong's No. 2 official is set to quit her post in a move that would mark a major government shakeup. AP

Cops probe bomb blast at Belfast party office

BELFAST—Police were Friday investigating a bomb attack on the offices of a member of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP) in north Belfast.

Four people inside the building narrowly escaped injury, said an SDLP spokesperson.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) said the front door of the offices was blown in and the front of the building and hallway were damaged.

An SDLP press officer said: "A device was thrown at the SDLP offices by the Antrim Road."

A spokesperson for the RUC said that Army bomb disposal experts sealed the area off as they carried out an inspection, and added that the bomb was an "improvised explosive device."

The incident happened at 8:40 p.m. The offices are those of Alban Maginness, an SDLP member of the province's Assembly, who said four members of a scout group who rent the premises were in the building at the time. *AFP*

Report: HK's No. 2 official quitting

HONG KONG—The territory's No. 2 official is quitting in a move that would severe the highest-level continuity between Hong Kong's colonial British past and present Chinese sovereignty, local media reported Friday.

Chief Secretary for Administration Anson Chan has reportedly been at odds with Hong Kong's political leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, and Beijing recently warned her to be more supportive.

Tung and Chan scheduled a news conference for Friday afternoon but did not specify what they would be discussing. Spokespersons for Tung and Chan both declined comment early Friday. Chan had earlier avoided any comment on the news reports, which were vague on the reasons she might leave her job as the head of Hong Kong's civil service a year and a half before her term ends.

Chan was appointed by the last British governor, Chris Patten, becoming Hong Kong's first Chinese chief secretary.

When Britain returned Hong Kong to China on July 1, 1997, the territory was placed under a government arrangement known as "one country, two systems" that preserved Hong Kong's western-style freedoms, and Chan became a visible symbol of stability in the transfer of power.

She is highly popular and many ordinary Hong Kong citizens were shocked by the news that some said could disrupt the government in the short run.

"It's too abrupt," said Li Yuk-mei, a 43-year-old office assistant. "I think she is much better and more determined than Tung Chee-hwa."

"It's a pity," agreed messenger Yue Heung-fai, 63. "She's a nice and objective person. She is not the type who would go to the extreme. I am a bit worried that the government may not be able to find a successor having such qualities."

But the stock market showed little reaction and some Hong Kong people played down the significance.

"The rumors have been spreading around for a long time," said 41-year-old clerk Joyce Ho. "I don't see it will affect our society in anyway, as Tung Chee-hwa already assures us stable governance."

Much was made Friday of purported quarreling between Tung and Chan.

"From my observation, this dispute cannot be resolved," said Xu Si-min, a Hong Kong-based member of the mainland Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. *AP*

Pilot shot down may be alive

BOSTON—President Bill Clinton said in a radio interview Thursday that Washington has information that a US pilot shot down and presumed killed on the opening night of the 1991 Gulf War may be alive.

"We've already begun working to try to determine whether, in fact, he's alive and if he is where he is and how we can get him out," Clinton told CBS News radio in an exclusive interview, warning: "I don't want to raise false hopes."

But "we have enough information that makes us believe that at least he survived his crash, that that's a possibility, and that he might be alive," the outgoing president, who leaves office Jan. 20, told the network.

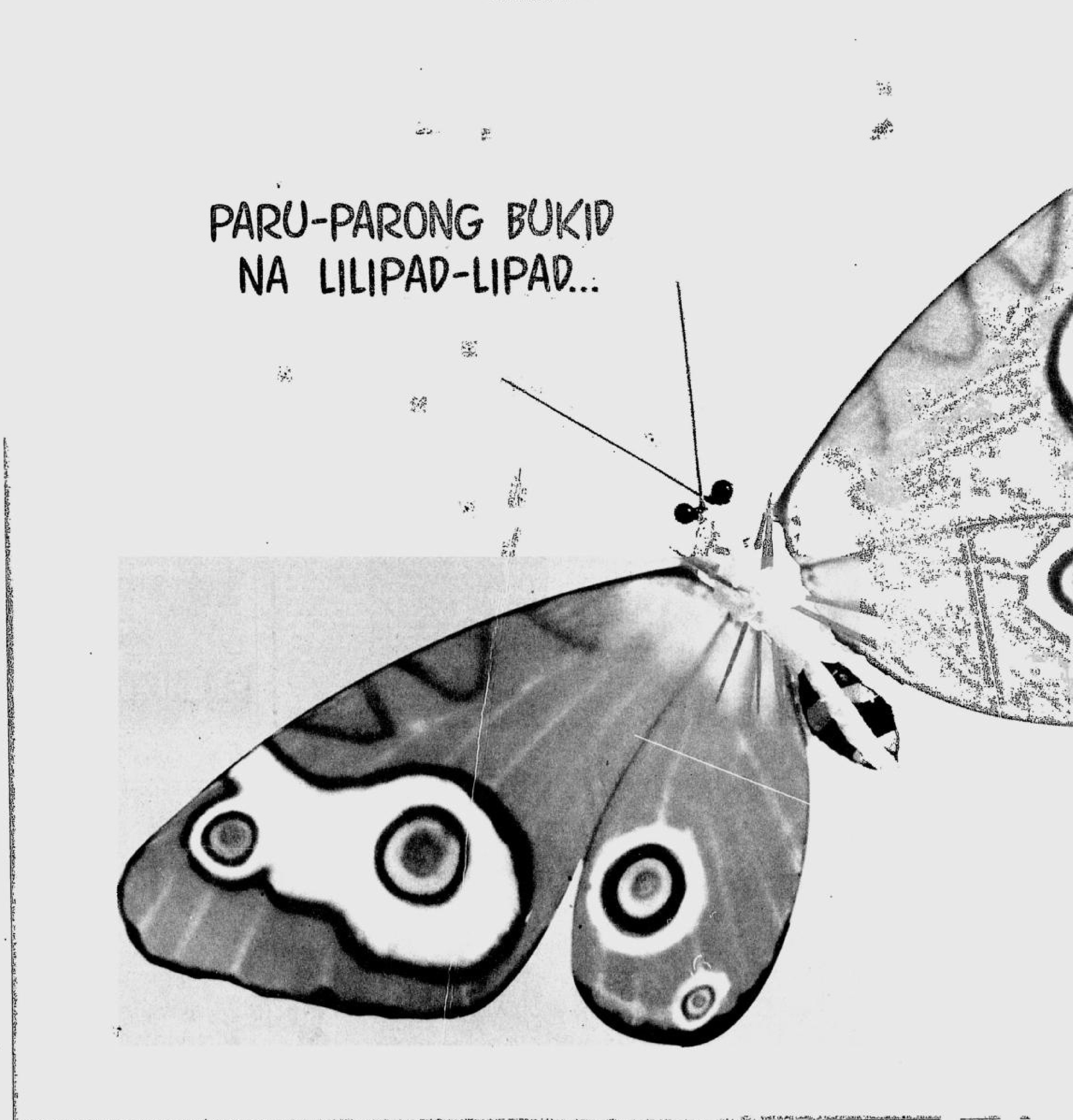
Lt. Com. Michael Speicher, an F-18 Hornet pilot and the first American lost in the Gulf War, was shot down in a dogfight over Iraq territory on Jan. 17, 1991, the first day of the conflict.

Earlier, US State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker said Washington delivered diplomatic notes to Iraqi diplomats in three cities beginning Wednesday demanding Baghdad turn over information about Speicher's fate.

"We believe that the Iraqis hold additional information that could help resolve the case of Commander Speicher and they are obligated to provide that information to us," Reeker told reporters.

"The Iraqis owe us information," a defense official added. "We think they know more than they told us."

Speicher was first listed as "missing in action," a status later changed to "killed in action, body not recovered." *AFP*



Bosnian leader pleads not guilty to genocide

THE HAGUE—Biljana Plavsic, the most senior Bosnian Serb to face a war crimes tribunal, pleaded innocent Thursday to genocide and other charges amid speculation that she might be ready to testify against her former cohorts.

The 70-year-old Plavsic—the first woman publicly indicted for war crimes—was accused of being part of the Bosnian Serb wartime presidency that allegedly ordered the executions of thousands of Muslims and Croats in an "ethnic cleansing" campaign at the outset of the 1992-1995 conflict.

If former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic or other top suspects still at large are ever brought before the 14-judge tribunal, Plavsic would almost certainly be called to testify against them because of her knowledge of wartime decision-making structures.

Her voluntary surrender on Wednesday after learning of the secret indictment fueled speculation that she had cut a deal—despite a denial from chief prosecutor Carla Del Ponte.

"There must be some expectation of a reduced sentence," said Avril McDonald of the T.M.C. Asser Institute of International Law in The Hague.

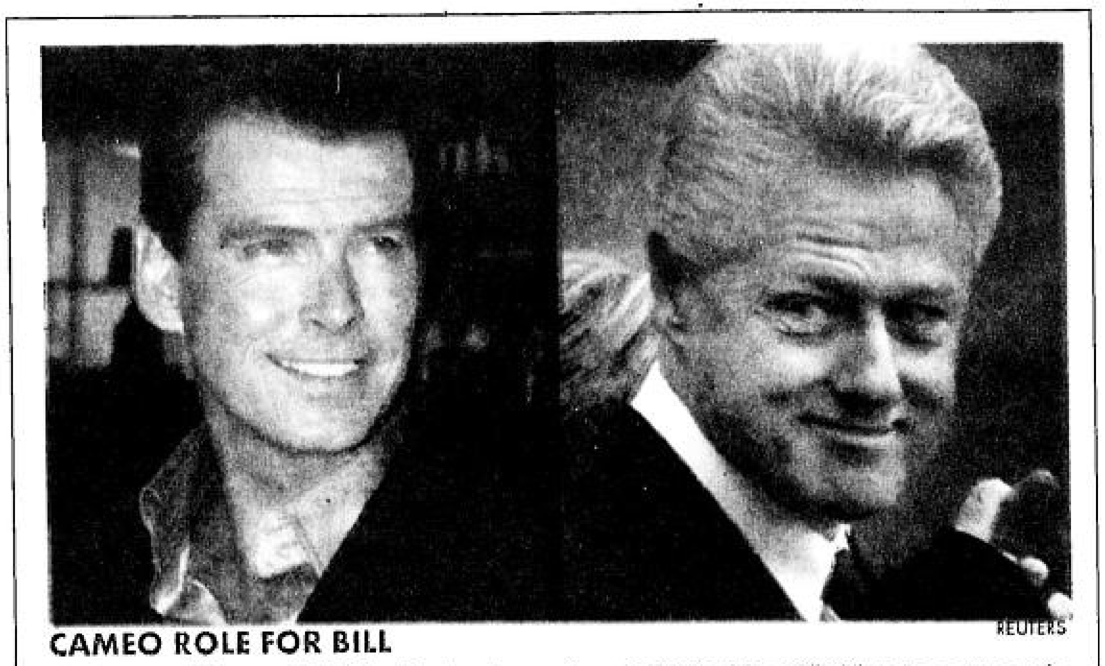
Sporting a violet blazer, the silver-haired Plavsic, a former biology teacher, stood confidently, flanked by female UN guards, as the indictment was formally presented by Del Ponte's team.

"I do not feel guilty," she repeated in Serbian as Judge Richard May of Britain listed each of the nine counts on her indictment, including genocide, extermination, persecution, deportation and inhumane acts.

Plavsic was an ally of the Bosnian Serb wartime president Radovan Karadzic, whom she succeeded after the Bosnian war ended with the 1995 Dayton peace agreement. Karadzic has been indicted on the same charges but remains at large.

Plavsic broke with Karadzic and other hardliners after the war, believing that cooperation with the United States and its allies was the best way to guarantee a future for the Bosnian Serbs.

She flew to The Hague after hearing of a secret international warrant issued last April for her arrest, her lawyer, Kristen Simic, said. *AP*



REUTERS

CAMEO ROLE FOR BILL

Producers of the next 007 blockbuster have offered US President Bill Clinton a cameo role after he leaves office later this month, Sky News reported on Jan. 1. The next Bond movie, with the working title "Beyond the Ice," is currently in pre-production at Pinewood studios. Scriptwriters are working on a scene where Bond, played by Pierce Brosnan, meets "President" Clinton at a White House reception and enlists his help.

LAST ONE IN 1954

1st black woman executed in US

McALESTER, Oklahoma—A woman convicted of killing a childhood friend and later murdering a lesbian lover was executed, becoming the first black woman executed in the United States since 1954.

Wanda Jean Allen, 41, received a lethal dose of drugs at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary Thursday night.

"Father forgive them," Allen said before she died. "They know not what they do."

Gov. Frank Keating, an ardent death penalty supporter, cleared the way for the execution by denying a late request for a 30-day stay. A federal appeals court and the US Supreme Court also refused to block the execution.

Keating met with the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Attorney General Drew Edmondson before making his decision. Jackson was among two dozen people arrested Wednesday for trespassing during a protest at a women's prison.

Allen's request for a stay was based on the narrow issue of whether the state parole board knew enough about her education. Her attorneys have said she scored 69 on an IQ test she took in the 1970s, suggesting that she is retarded.

Before Thursday, 44 women had been executed in the United States since 1900. The last execution of a black woman came in 1954, when Ohio electrocuted Betty Jean Butler.

The most recent woman to die was Christina Marie Riggs, 28, executed in Arkansas in May for smothering her two young children.

Since the 1976 Supreme Court lifting of a moratorium on executions, more than 685 people have been executed in the United States. Last year, 85 people were put to death.

Prosecutors argued at a recent clemency hearing that Allen had graduated from high school and received a medical assistant certificate from Rose State College. Allen, however, dropped out of high school at 16 and never finished course work in the medical program.

In 1981, Allen fatally shot childhood friend Dedra Pettus during an argument, and spent two years in prison. Seven years later, she killed her lover, Gloria Leathers, whom she met in prison.

Leathers argued with Allen in a grocery store the day she died and was gunned down as she arrived at a police station with her mother to file a complaint.

Leathers' mother, Ruby Wilson, has said she doesn't hate Allen but hates what she did.

"I will never forget it. I will always see it," Wilson said after meeting with Allen. *AP*

CZECH TV STANDOFF

TV director resigns

PRAGUE—Despite the resignation of Jiri Hodac, the director of Czech Television, there was no end in sight to a three-week standoff between the channel's managers and rebellious staff backed by a vociferous public.

More than 50,000 Czechs turned out for a demonstration in central Wenceslas Square Thursday evening to back calls for further resignations of senior management accused, like Hodac, of being political appointees. Smaller rallies were also held in two other cities.

"We want an independent television" and "We are with you" read banners waved by boisterous demonstrators only two hours after Hodac issued a statement saying he was stepping down due to ill health.

"Tens of thousands have gathered here to support freedom of speech," state television reporter Hana Vitkova said in a live transmission from the square.

More than 193,000 people have signed a petition supporting the strikers and another protest is planned for Jan. 20. About 100,000 people took to the streets of Prague last week to call for Hodac's resignation, the largest rally since the 1989 protests that helped end communist rule.

The lower chamber of parliament will decide Friday whether to give the ruling Social Democrats temporary control of the channel, including the power to appoint an interim director.

The Social Democrats proposed the law change after the Czech Television Council that appointed Hodac ignored their recommendation last weekend to fire him in the wake of widespread protests. After consulting with his doctors, Hodac—who was hospitalized for exhaustion for several days during the dispute—submitted his resignation to the council. Under Czech law, he will remain in the post until a new director is named.

Journalists and newscasters at the network who had refused to work under Hodac have been holed up in the newsroom since Dec. 20. They accused Hodac of having close ties to political leaders, particularly former Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus. *AP*

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   - Residents of Regions 9-13 and ARMM can join in Cagayan de Oro & Davao City.

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  Carlos P. Garcia Sports Complex
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KITEFEST 2001

1 killed, 51 hurt in Colombia bomb blast

BOGOTA—Authorities said Thursday that one person was killed and 51 injured by a car bomb blast the day before in the city of Medellin, plagued for decades by violence linked to drug trafficking.

Six were seriously injured in the late Wednesday car bombing, including a nine-month-old baby and a pregnant woman, Medellin police Chief Jorge Castro said. He said the explosion came from 40 kg of dynamite hidden in a vehicle that damaged 20 nearby buildings and 260 cars.

Eight of the injured remained hospitalized Thursday, Castro said. The dead person was identified as Gloria Gutierrez, a 38-year-old dentist.

The blast occurred in the parking lot of an exclusive shopping center in the city 430 km northwest of Bogota.

The governor of the Antioquia department said that no group had claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities have offered a $50,000 reward for the capture of those responsible.

Medellin was the scene in the 1980s and 1990s of repeated bombings and assassinations linked to the city's cocaine cartel led by Pablo Escobar. Escobar was killed in December 1993 by Colombian authorities after escaping from prison.

Leftist anti-government guerrillas and right-wing paramilitaries also operate in the city, officials said.

Business owners in the area affected by the explosion reported receiving anonymous warnings by telephone. Those reports have led authorities to consider that the attack may either have been retaliation for a business not paying protection money to the Marxist guerrillas or, on the other hand, retaliation by the paramilitaries against businesses perceived to have supported the guerrillas.

However, authorities also have not ruled out organized crime groups as possible suspects.

Colombian President Andres Pastrana condemned the attack and offered to help local authorities find those responsible. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Dike used as smokescreen for trash

Pampanga lawmaker urges no-garbage assurance from contractor

MINALIN, Pampanga—Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc has urged the Department of Public Works and Highways to stop the construction of an anti-lahar dike in this town until its contractor, R-II Builders, has assured that it would not use garbage collected from Metro Manila as filling materials.

Bondoc called for a stop to the dike project after residents and town councilors told him in a letter that an earth moving equipment of R-II Builders was seen dumping mounds of lahar over the garbage already discarded in a five-hectare lot here.

Lito Miranda, brother-in-law of Minalin Mayor Santiago Yabut, admitted owning the dump located next to the tail dike.

Residents of Barangay Sta. Catalina said they saw the equipment working on the site last Friday night when they stopped the dumping of 26 truckloads of trash in Miranda's lot. They said they also have video footage of two men in military and police uniforms guarding the site.

R-II Builders, one of two companies that won a contract to dispose of Metro Manila's waste in a pit mine on Semirara Island in Antique, also won the Japanese-funded contract to rehabilitate the tail dike linked to the 56-kilometer FVR Megadike.

Chito Nombres, R-II Builders vice president, denied that his company was starting a dump in this town.

Engineer Virgilio Juliana, who introduced himself as an employee of a Korean garbage-disposal firm, told the INQUIRER that equipment from R-II Builders were being used temporarily for what he claimed was a fertilizer-production project in the site.

Juliana said their equipment were out of order.

But Juliana and Miranda neither processed nor secured a permit for the project, Vice Mayor Nilo Pingul said.

Environment officials in Central Luzon said no permits for a landfill, dump or fertilizer project were being sought in Minalin or Bacolor.

"Both the apparent plans to dump garbage in Minalin and to use garbage as filling materials for the dike have definitely big implications to the health and safety of the residents in the fourth district of Pampanga," Bondoc told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

Bondoc said he also called for a congressional inquiry to determine whether or not the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Interior and Local Government allowed the dumping of Metro Manila garbage in Central Luzon, particularly in abandoned or less populated, lahar-laden villages.

The investigation would cover Yabut whom Bondoc said appeared to have prior knowledge of the plan to discard Metro Manila garbage in Minalin and Bacolor towns.

Bondoc said that when a councilor called up Yabut, the mayor reportedly said the 26 trucks that arrived in Sta. Catalina were intended for Ba-color.

"It's for Bacolor. It is not yet for us," the councilor, whom Bondoc did not identify, quoted Yabut as saying in Kapampangan.

Yabut, although denying having any knowledge of the dumpsite plan, admitted to the INQUIRER last Monday that Juliana had called him and urged him to approve the fertilizer project because the town stands to earn between P500,000 and P1 million monthly from it.

He said he told Juliana that the project would be approved only when the residents allowed it.

On Wednesday, Gov. Manuel Lapid issued a memorandum ordering all mayors and the police in Pampanga to prevent the illegal dumping of Metro Manila garbage in the province.

Benalfre Galang, provincial administrator, said they asked local officials to monitor the movement of dump trucks in their towns to prevent the entry of "foreign garbage," particularly those coming from Metro Manila.

Galang also asked Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, provincial police director, to set up blockades to stop garbage trucks from Metro Manila from entering the province.
Tonette Orejas with a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Police expel mayor's men from town hall

MEXICO, Pampanga—In a 10-minute siege, policemen from Camp Olivas stormed the municipal hall here on Thursday night and flushed out, without violence, the supporters of Mayor Ernesto Punzalan who, for almost a month, refused to heed the preventive suspension order of the Office of the Ombudsman.

At least 40 members of the regional police's mobile force, led by Chief Supt. Roberto Calinisan, Central Luzon police director, arrived at the town hall here at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Calinisan urged Punzalan's supporters to leave the premises peacefully after he explained the propriety of allowing Vice Mayor Albert de la Cruz to serve the mayor's post in an acting capacity.

However, seven male supporters of Punzalan refused to vacate the mayor's office. They padlocked the door of the mayor's office, barring entry by piling tables and putting other obstructions.

Two policemen, using rifle butts, forced open the door by smashing it.

The seven supporters, their names still not made known immediately by the police, were arrested and taken to Camp Olivas on Thursday night.

They did not resist arrest. No one was seen or reported hurt when the police occupied the municipal hall.

Calinisan said these men, including Punzalan, will be charged with obstruction of justice.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

MEMORIES AND A GIRL BEN MOSES EBREO

Time moves so swiftly it leaves behind countless events in people's lives that often become too distant for the mind to remember. But there are memories worth keeping and—in the case of these three elderly women in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya—worth sharing with those who could take part in the past only through pictures.

Troops sent to MILF camp in Davao Sur

DAVAO CITY—Government forces here on Wednesday sent two companies of Army soldiers and policemen to the hinterland areas of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur as offensives against suspected lairs of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) resumed.

Chief Insp. Matthew Baccay, spokesperson of the regional police command, said the police's Provincial Mobile Force and the Army's 68th Infantry Battalion immediately sent troops to the area after receiving reports of the presence of some MILF forces in Barangay Rizal in Sta. Cruz town on Monday.

Baccay said they suspect that MILF rebels, reportedly led by a certain Commander Jerry Abubakar, are planning to move to the Davao City areas to recruit more members, expand their mass base and possibly launch attacks in some parts of the city.

Meanwhile, Col. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, said Army troopers augmented police checkpoints along the highways as a precautionary measure in connection with intelligence reports that bomb attacks would be staged in Davao City.

As early as November, several troopers were deployed to communities in hinterland areas straddling Davao City, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato and North Cotabato as part of the military's Oplan Kalasag.

Oplan Kalasag is designed to protect key urban areas in Southern Mindanao and the Caraga areas from possible attacks both by the MILF and the New People's Army.
Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ECONOMIC CRISIS

C. Luzon tax collection down by ₱137M

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Total revenue collections in Central Luzon last year incurred a shortfall of at least P137 million and officials, in figures released Thursday, attributed the decline not to taxpayers' diminishing confidence in the Estrada administration but to the economic crisis.

The regional Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P4.253 billion, which is lower than the P4.391 billion targeted last year, a yearend preliminary report showed.

Still, the revenues drawn last year surpassed the P3.606 billion accumulated in 1999, Antonio Montemayor, BIR regional director, said.

Higher-than-goal contributions by five districts reduced the cumulative revenue deficit in the region, the report showed.

The Tarlac revenue district exceeded its target by P160.276 million. Olongapo City surpassed its target by P80.849 million; Bataan by P83.284 million; Baler, Aurora by P30.472 million; and Cabanatuan City by P94.315 million.

Pampanga, consistently the highest contributor and which raised P1.011 billion in taxes out of a target of P1.572 billion last year, reported a deficit of P561.027 million.

The revenue district at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority in Zambales drew P605.977 million from a target of P631.637 million, generating a deficit of P25.659 million.

"It's the economic crisis. The decrease is not a confidence issue," Montemayor said.

Without giving figures, he said that a number of companies in Central Luzon's key towns and cities have closed last year.

Companies that resorted to closure and retrenchments until November last year totaled 176 while 8,103 workers were laid off, a report from the regional Department of Labor and Employment showed.

In Tarlac, for example, three branches of a popular fast-food chain closed last year, Montemayor said.

Income taxes, which last year totaled P3.5 billion, continued to be the biggest contributor to the revenue pie in the region.

Revenue generated from value-added taxes fell short by P297.590 million, BIR records showed.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cops, Army men snub habeas corpus case

TOP officials of the police and the Army in Western Visayas continued to ignore a petition to present alleged rebels whom the military refuses to release from prison despite questions in the way they were arrested.

Rolando Villamor, lawyer of suspected rebel leader Jessie Lipura, said Maj. Gen. Julius Javier, Col. Alphonsus Crucero, Chief Supt. Julius Yarcia and Supt. Gerry Barias again snubbed a court hearing on the *habeas corpus* petition for Lipura and his companions who were also arrested by military agents—Merfe Abuzo, Emmanuel Hernaez, Max Frederick Oyos, Medardo Sayosa and Charlito Abueva.

At a hearing of the petition before Judge Gorgonio Ybanez of the Regional Trial Court of Bacolod, the officials instead sent SPO2 Freddie Divinagracia and SPO3 Felipe Pamucol with their five captives. No lawyer was sent to accompany them.

The Army and police are being asked to justify the continued detention of Lipura and his companions who were arrested in Barangay Taloc, Bago on Jan. 5.

Police released Hernaez on Thursday, as his name was not included in the rebellion charges filed against his companions.

Yesterday, the two policemen sent to accompany the five to court failed to produce authentic warrants of arrest that they said were issued against their captives.

Ybanez ordered them to bring to court authenticated copies of the warrants of arrest for the five before 5 p.m. yesterday. The detainees should be released without these warrants, said Ybanez.

Villamor said even if the police could produce the warrants of arrest, he was sure these would come from a municipal trial court judge, who does not have authority to issue warrants of arrest.

Warrants of arrest for rebellion should be issued by regional trial court judges, Villamor said.

On the claim of the police that there are warrants against Lipura issued by Dumaguete courts, Villamor said the name of his client does not appear in these documents. What appears is the name Jessie Doe, which does not mean Jessie Lipura, Villamor said.

The Army and police officials' failure to appear in court to explain the detention of the five shows their lack of respect for the law, Villamor said.

"These are not martial law days, these are normal times in the Philippines," he said.

Lipura said the non-appearance of the police and Army officials means they are not interested in the legal process. Lipura added that had their arrest not been discovered by civilians, they could have been summarily executed by their captors.

Amado Parreno, lawyer of Oyos, said his client is not a rebel but a victim of human rights abuse. Parreno said he is confident the court will free Oyos because he is innocent.

He said the top police and Army officials' failure to show up despite the summons of the court "is an indication of a cavalier attitude and low regard for the court."

It can also be an indication of their lack of evidence to justify the legality of detaining the five suspected rebels, he added.

Parreno said the police representatives who appeared in court admitted that there were no warrants of arrest for the petitioners when they were arrested.

The warrants were obtained as an afterthought to justify the suspected rebels' continued detention, Parreno said.

Another political detainee released from Negros prison

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Another political detainee was freed on Thursday, a month after President Estrada promised to release him "within 24 hours."

Wilfredo Bargamento walked out of the Negros Occidental provincial jail in Bacolod at about 10 a.m. on Jan. 11 after jail officials received a copy of the release order issued by Judge Roberto Javellana of the Regional Trial Court in San Carlos City.

Bargamento, 38, of Calatrava town, is facing frustrated murder charges before Judge Javellana.

He was the fourth of five political detainees to be released. The three others—Joaquin Espares, Sael Villaespin and Armando Occeña—were freed before New Year.

Only Ronnie Rotuni, 26, of Escalante town, remains in jail. He will have to wait a little longer because he has been convicted of homicide and is facing a prison term of eight to 14 years.

Presidential pardon

For Rotuni to be freed, a presidential pardon is required, said Rando Coles, a representative of the government in peace talks with the communist faction Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P).

He said he was going back to Manila to follow up Rotuni's pardon and the possible release of other political prisoners.

But Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma, a member of the peace panel, said the hearings of the prisoners' cases should continue even if they have been freed.

He explained that their release does not absolve them of the criminal cases that were filed against them.

Espares was charged with murder for the death of a Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit member while Villaespin, 34, was charged with illegal possession of firearms, robbery and murder charges. Their cases are pending before the RTC in Kabankalan City.

Occeña has a pending case of illegal possession of firearm before the RTC in Bago City.

Peace agreement

Estrada announced the release within 24 hours of the five political prisoners in Negros on Dec. 10, following the signing of a peace agreement between the government and the RPM-P in Don Salvador Benedicto town.

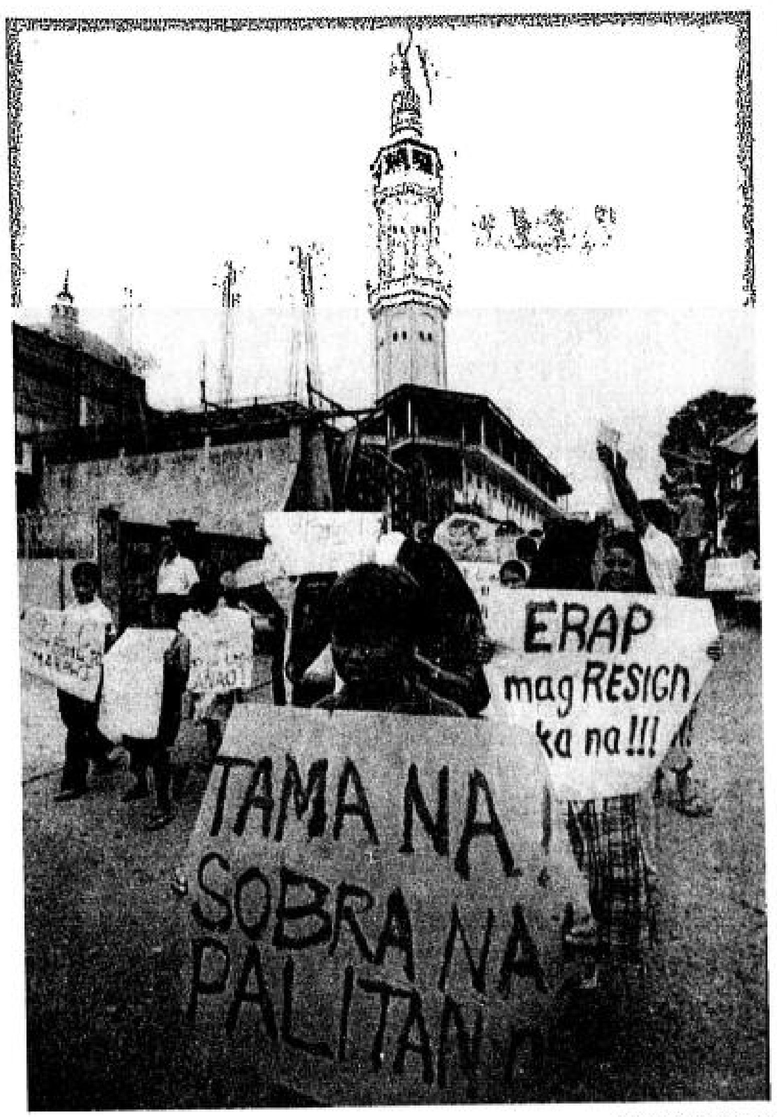
He also vowed to work on the release of the remaining 200 political prisoners in the country before Christmas to show the government's sincerity in the peace negotiations.

The RPM-P is a faction that broke away from the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, in the wake of widespread discontent over the leadership of Jose Ma. Sison, who is based in The Netherlands.

The Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade, the RPM-P military arm, operates nationwide but the bulk of its forces are on Negros Island.

President Estrada also promised to release funds to the breakaway rebels for their livelihood projects.

The agreement comes in the wake of the CPP-NPA's refusal to declare a ceasefire and orders made by its self-exiled leader in The Netherlands to step up offensives against government targets.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MARAWI HEAT BOBBY TIMONERA

Marawi City feels the heat, too, from protesters demanding the resignation of President Estrada.

CHRISTMAS LETTER

Captive soldier writes home

LUCENA CITY—The Melito Glor Command of the New People's Army finally allowed its captive Army Maj. Noel Buan to communicate with his family last Christmas.

Cielo Buan, wife of the abducted military intelligence chief of the Southern Luzon Command of the Armed Forces, disclosed to the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday that she received a letter from her husband a few days before Christmas.

She said someone called her up on the phone and instructed her to come to a meeting at a specified place late in the afternoon. "The courier just handed me the letter in a sealed envelope and inside is a single piece of paper, seemingly stripped from a Cattleya notebook with the personal handwriting of Noel in blue ink."

Cielo said the courier, whose gender she did not specify, handed her the letter without saying a word. "It (the letter) was just handed to me. I did not ask any questions because the courier left hurriedly," she said.

"Noel told me that he is fine. And I have no doubt that my husband was the one who did the writing. The request that we've been begging from his custodians for a long time was finally answered," she said.

But amid the joy that enveloped the Buan home last Christmas, Nenita Martin, the wife of the other captured police officer, wondered why she has not received anything from her husband, Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin.

When the INQUIRER talked with Nenita three days after Christmas, she did not mention anything about a letter from her husband. Cielo confirmed this yesterday. "Nenita is really wondering why she is not receiving anything."

The INQUIRER tried to contact Nenita at the family's residence in Sariaya but nobody answered the phone.

Cielo said her family, especially their daughter Dyenina, had wished and hoped for Noel's presence last Christmas. "But with the letter alone, we're grateful because it gave us enough hope," she said.

Cielo disclosed some portions of the letter which revealed that her husband is still a prisoner. "Sometimes they're strict with me. Sometimes, they're lax," read a portion of the letter.

She said the information provided by Noel disproved claims made by some quarters that her husband had already joined the rebels.

"Noel told me not to worry too much. He asked me to be strong," she said.

Cielo said she never gave up hope that the leaders of the National Democratic Front would grant her request for her husband to communicate with them. "I guess it's the universal spirit of Christmas that drove them to accede to our request. Everybody is expected to bring happiness to others, no matter what ideology they espouse," she said.

Cielo also revealed that Noel's letter also contains a portion for their daughter. "In the same piece of paper, she congratulated our daughter on her academic achievements especially on her recent school quiz bee contest wherein she again received (an) award."

"Apparently, Noel has been reading all about us in the papers since I mentioned this math and science quiz bee award in one of my interviews," she told the INQUIRER.

She said her husband was Dyenina's coach and tutor. "Noel would always make it a point to come home and personally tutor her on the subject," Cielo said.

"We terribly missed Noel last Christmas. It was the second Christmas that he was not with us," Cielo said, her voice still with mixed emotions of hope and just shades now of fading despair.

She added that the last time they received a voice tape from Noel was on Dec. 31, 1999.

Cielo expressed optimism that the government and the rebels would return to the negotiating table.

"I just hope and pray that both sides would arrive at a just conclusion for the sake of peace, not only for the sake of our families, but for the whole country as well," she said.

She added that the prospect of the peace talks resuming "has illuminated and given them a ray of hope, that finally their prayers are now finally being heard and hopefully it would result in a more lasting joy for all." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Tests say firm's water use not excessive

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—An environmental auditing company has found that the San Pedro manufacturing plant of Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (KCPI) complies with good industrial practice standards being observed not only in the Philippines but also in other parts of the world.

Steven Rowan, senior manager of Environ International Corp., said tests showed that the KCPI's effluents being discharged in the adjacent San Isidro River currently meet applicable Philippine standards.

Environ is an international, technical and scientific consultancy firm providing state-of-the-art scientific, engineering, and strategic risk management services to clients all over the world.

The company was engaged by the KCPI to conduct a detailed environmental audit of its San Pedro Mill following allegations of possible violations of the Philippine Water Code.

Rowan is a chartered chemist and an international consultant with over 12 years of experience both as an enforcement and pollution control officer for two United Kingdom waste regulation authorities.

He claimed that the KCPI also complies with more stringent standards used worldwide by the KCPI.

Both local and international standards are designed to protect surface water quality.

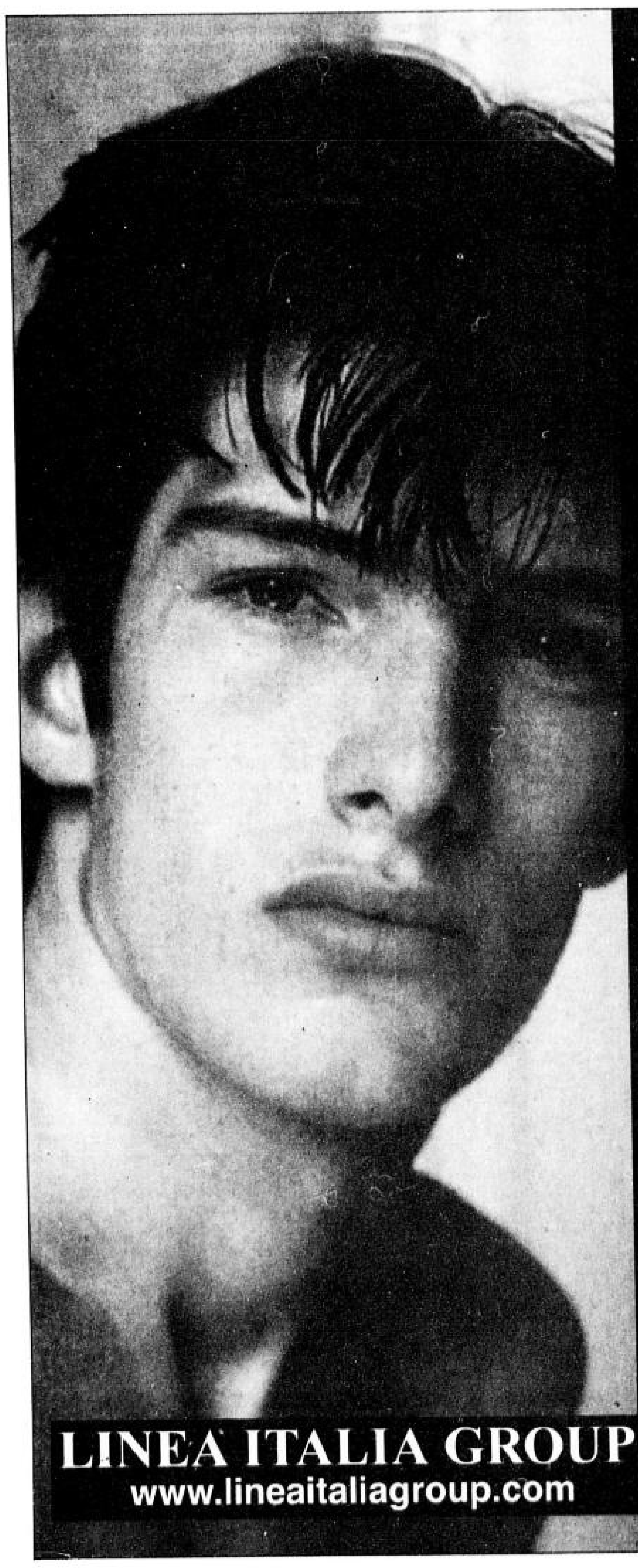
Rowan added that this is due to the design of the KCPI's wastewater treatment facility, which includes primary, secondary and tertiary treatment operations.

Part of the investigation being conducted by Environ is to assess the site's water usage and its alleged impact on the local aquifer.

Earlier, lawyer Rosendo Chavez, San Pedro Water District (SPWD) vice president, told the House committee on ecology chaired by Rep. Augusto Baculio, that KCPI might be extracting more groundwater than that supplied by the SPWD to the town's residents.

The SPWD supplies water to about 26 percent of the municipality's population.

Chavez expressed fear that the KCPI might be rapidly depleting the natural water resource of this industrial town because of the huge volume of water it extracts for its manufacturing operations. *Dennis Maliwanag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

The state of Philippine education: A silent crisis

By JUAN MERCADO
Cebu City

GRADE 6 students in Cebu "stumbled" in science and mathematics during the three Visayas-wide mock exams that were to prepare them for the National Elementary Assessment Tests (Neat), which lag behind international standards.

This dismal performance mirrors the rock-bottom grades that 6,601 Filipino students secured in the 1999 "International Mathematics and Science Study-Repeat" exams.

Out of 38 countries that participated in this worldwide exam held every four years, the Philippines hobbled 37th—or second to the last.

Worse, the Philippines was the only Asian country that didn't outperform Western nations. High school students from Singapore, Korea, Taipei, Hong Kong and Japan were the pacesetters.

Filipino students haven't budged from the tailend status they were locked into in the test in 1995.

Out of 41 nations that signed up for the international exams in the mid-1990s, the Philippines came 38th. It was bracketed by Iran at 37th and Kuwait, at 39th.

Singapore topped that exam, followed by South Korea and Japan.

"Our students are weak in science and math," Leona Villaflor, Cebu assistant provincial schools superintendent, said. "So they have to do more overtime in reviewing."

A fourth mock test will be conducted all over the Visayas when schools reopen after the Christmas-New Year break. Shoddy grades in previous tests led alarmed educators to hold "mock exams" so students do better in the Jan. 9 and 12 tests.

Broader, deeper

But flunking subjects critical for 21st-century cyberspace society is only one sign of a broader and deepening crisis in education. The Philippine Human Development Report 2000, published by the United Nations, documents features of this "silent crisis."

Students are sold short by unqualified teachers, error-studded textbooks, irrelevant curriculums, cramped classrooms, and even tests that cater to a local "graduate-at-all-cost" culture.

"Nor is the qualify problems evident only in international tests," the PHDR 2000 notes. "Even the country's own tests reveal the problem."

To hurdle the Neat, with a grade of 75, for example, students need only answer correctly 60 out of 160 questions. Sixty points are added on to the correct answers.

This 60-point bonus results in a criterion where the passing score is not 50 percent but 37.5 percent, the UN report notes. "Whom are we kidding?"

The National Secondary Achievement Tests (NSAT) repeat this loosening of standards. "The cut-off score in the 250-item NSAT is 93.75, which is only 37.5 percent. This is transmuted to 75, the passing mark."

Average NSAT mean percentage scores in 1998 ranked the regions as follows: Western Visayas, 17; Central Visayas, 8; and Eastern Visayas, 3.

The Neat scores were Western Visayas, 7; Central Visayas, 8; and Eastern Visayas, 1 (which lagged at 14th place in 1993).

Don't read too much in to these results, the PHRD warns. "Long-term researchers believe (an upward trend) reflects more lax standards in the examinations, rather than an improvement in the performance."

This crisis is producing barely literate graduates, inarticulate in either English or the dialect. Most are at a loss with numbers, alien to great literature or music. There's no shortages of problems to explain its causes.

Barely any new knowledge is gained by pupils in Grades 5 and 6. There's only one book for every three students.

The degree of inadequacy was worst in math, the World Bank notes. "There are also virtually no textbooks in science for primary grades . . . In high school, there's only half (0.6) a book per student in all subjects."

Education penny-pinching is reflected in shoddy performance. In the mid-1990s, international science and math exam, the Philippines allocated at least $138 per student.

In contrast, Thailand, which was near the median, spent six times as much as the Philippines. Topnotcher Singapore allocated $1,582.

Short end

With a P120-billion budget deficit, now a 2001 certainty, and an impeachment trial distracting attention, schools will, once again, be on the short end.

Education Secretary Andrew Gonzales and Science Secretary Filemon Uriarte have been coordinating to close the gap, even in such initiatives as Science and Technology Education Plan (Phase 2).

Decades of neglect, however, have embedded the problems. A Filipino high school graduate is two-and-a-half-years short of schooling compared to students in the US or Japan. Yet, some "leaders" want to trim compressed school years further.

Of every 100 who enroll in Grade 1, 33 will drop out before reaching Grade 6. "Tests show that there is barely any additional knowledge gained by students in Grade 5 and Grade 6."

A Filipino article of faith holds: education is the escape route from poverty. "Poverty incidence falls by three percent for every one percent increase in functional literacy," a 1999 University of the Philippines student report shows.

But that dream may be fading as the Third International Science and Mathematics tests and the Visayas mock exams show.

Superman, JQ, Caloy among the early birds

THE IMPEACHMENT trial of President Estrada has distracted some prospective candidates for the national and local elections in May.

Even the more popular politicians have not yet filed their certificates of candidacy since the Commission on Elections began accepting them last Jan. 2.

But there are still those who think that early birds do catch the worms.

A list of the earliest filers in key areas in the Visayas reveals that in the world of politics, it takes all kinds—from the serious contenders to the "unconventional" ones.

In Leyte, the early serious candidate came from the Romualdez clan. Those from other areas were unknowns who can be best described by the names they offer, like "Superman" of Iloilo City, "Jupiter" of Cebu province, or an "Interpolcom General" of Bacolod City.

On Thursday, a 38-year-old man, with the nickname "Superman," filed the first certificate of candidacy with the Office of the City Election Registrar of Iloilo.

Joemarie de Pedro Orilla, Superman's real name, is a "businessman," single, and wants a seat in the city council. His intentions are noble: To help create measures that will protect the environment from further degradation and ensure cleanliness in Iloilo City.

According to Orilla, the city must recover from its poor billing, having been adjudged by the Department of Interior and Local Government as the country's dirtiest city.

A native of Badiangan town, Orilla now resides in Barangay Boulevard in Molo District.

Orilla, who does not have any political experience, is not totally unknown in the city. He first attracted public attention on Sept. 17 last year, a Sunday, when he climbed to the balcony of the Jaro Cathedral and threatened to jump before a large crowd of churchgoers for no clear reasons.

The police was there to prevent the suicide attempt. The man was eventually released from police custody. This stint earned him the tag "Superman," which he has kept as campaign alias.

Mr. JQ

Bacolod's first contender for the mayoral race is a man named Julio Quirino or JQ, who claims to work as a general of the "International Police Commission."

Based on his certificate of candidacy, JQ, 44, resides in Barangay Alijia, Bacolod City.

In Cebu, a resident of Barangay Don Andres Soriano, Toledo City was the first to file his certificate of candidacy for governor.

Jupiter Cabarles, 48, filed his certificate of candidacy shortly before noon of Jan. 2 with the provincial Comelec office. But less than 24 hours after, he withdrew his bid for no apparent reasons.

Alex Villacrucis, election assistant in charge for accepting COCs, said Cabarles submitted his sworn letter of withdrawal without citing any explanation. "We just accepted the document."

In his application, Cabarles declared that he is known as "Popo Boy" in Barangay Don Andres Soriano, and a registered voter of Precinct 128 of the Bagong Buhay High School of the same village.

No other information was found in his application.

'Since birth'

Of the few serious contenders who have filed their certificates of candidacy, one name stood out, that of Carlos "Caloy" Romualdez, eldest son of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

Malipayon nga p
MAM

FLYING HIGH? Joemarie de Pedro Orilla attempts to jump from the balcony of the Jaro Cathedral in this photo taken on Sept. 17, 2000. This stint earned for Orilla the nickname Superman. FELIX AGUSTIN

On Thursday, Caloy, 43, filed his COC before the Comelec provincial office around 11:55 a.m., with some lawyers and supporters in tow.

Caloy is seeking to represent the second congressional district of Leyte. He will be squaring off with Vice Gov. Trinidad Apostol, wife of last-termer Rep. Sergio Apostol, a stalwart of the opposition Lakas-NUCD.

Caloy will be running under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), the political party of the beleaguered President Estrada.

But some people doubt the validity of Caloy's candidacy as the court has yet to rule on a complaint earlier filed against him.

Three leaders of Lakas-NUCD from the town of Burauen—Estilla Soro, Angelino Apostol and Elizabeth Raga—have filed a complaint before the Comelec, questioning the residency of Romualdez.

They claimed that Caloy should be disqualified, both as a voter and a candidate, as he is not a resident of Burauen as stated in his COC.

Caloy claims he has been a resident of Burauen "since birth." He registered at Precinct No. 11 in Barangay District and wrote his residence address at No. 135 Barangay District 3 of Burauen.

In an earlier interview, Romualdez said no one has the right to question his claim of residency because the Romualdezes were among the first settlers of Burauen.

The other early bird was former Tacloban Mayor Uldarico "Darie" Mate (Lakas), who wants to regain the mayoralty from Caloy's father.

As to who between former Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez and Mayor Bejo will run for Leyte governor, it is still a guessing game.

According to sources in the Romualdez camp, both have signified their intention to contest the post of re-electionist Gov. Remedios "Matin" Petilla of the Lakas-NUCD.

But Bejo may just opt to give way to his brother if Kokoy would insist on running for governor, a source said.

Former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, their elder sister, has appealed to her brothers that only one of them should run for the position, the sources added.

Kokoy and Bejo, according to the sources, have not been in good terms for years now. The reason for the estrangement was not disclosed.

In Cebu City, the early bird of note is retired police Gen. Artemio Tumakay.

Tumakay, 67, of Barangay Camputhaw, is running for councilor in the north district under the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino-Kugi Uswag Sugbu (LAMP-Kusug) led by Mayor Alvin Garcia, a reelectionist.

But Comelec records showed Tumakay has no official party nomination.

Ribomapil Holganza Sr., a political consultant of Kusug, said Tumakay was aspiring for a slot in the party. "But he has not been chosen as one the official candidates of Kusug." ***Raj Padilla, Joey Gabieta, Carla Gomez and Nagiel Bañacia***

Amid rotting stuff and nowhere to go

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

THE POWER of suggestion must be very strong, especially when people feel that their health or safety is threatened.

At the height of Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions, some residents of Bacolod City and Negros Occidental swore that they could see ash from the volcano in Luzon settling on their roofs and vehicles in some days. Now that the people in neighboring Antique are up in arms against a government plan to dump Metro Manila's garbage in Semirara, Negrense noses twitch as their owners claim to be assaulted by the stink from the barges moored near the island.

Swift as ever to settle on an occasion to be heard or seen, local officials have started making sounds of protest in support of the people of Antique. The matter has reached regional proportions, with the people of both Panay and Negros indignantly objecting to the idea of being the garbage receptacle of "Imperial Manila."

Already, the matter has reached the court, with Round One going to the protesters. And even if the temporary restraining order of the court is lifted, it is doubtful if those barges could ever unload their unwelcome cargo. A flotilla of vessels is on standby, ready to bar them anytime.

One can only pity the hapless members of the barges' crew. All full of rotting and stinking stuff and no place to go.

* * *

IN BACOLOD, anger and shock at the brutal killing of six members of the Rivilla family and two of their household helpers have abated somewhat with the capture and the subsequent filing of charges against the suspect, houseboy Bemon Gallo.

For a while, neither the relatives nor the police could believe the claim that only one person had accomplished the dastardly deed. However, almost a month has gone by and no clues have come up to indicate that Gallo had accomplices. So he is now awaiting trial in two courts, one for the crime committed against the five adults, the other for the murder of the little boys.

* * *

THE DRAMATIC capture of Gallo was soon eclipsed by yet another capture, this time of a high-ranking member of the communist New People's Army, in fact its No. 2 man in the area, according to the military.

Jesse Lipura and five others were arrested by the military in Barangay Taloc, Bago City, just a few kilometers south of Bacolod.

Just how important Lipura is to the rebel movement was quickly determined by the stirrings among its members, as well as its foreign-based leaders. Among those who confirmed Lipura's status was National Democratic Front spokesperson, former priest Luis Jalandoni, who came out with a certification authenticating him.

This further elated military officials who promptly filed murder charges against Lipura et al. for the ambush-slaying of 17 soldiers in Himamaylan town last year. The charges were just as promptly dismissed by the court, citing lack of probable cause. But it entertained rebellion charges for which a P1.3-million bail was set.

The rebel group has been busy, too, filing petitions for habeas corpus, charging illegal detention and arrest, as well as human rights violations. The province is now awaiting a battle of skills between the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA and the military lawyers.

* * *

POISON pen writers in Bacolod have again picked up their instruments, probably forgetting that an earlier attempt of a similar operator last year had backfired, with drastic results on the suspected perpetrator.

This time, the target of the letters, copies of which were circulated to media entities, business groups and government offices, was Mayor Oscar Verdeflor.

The writer claimed Verdeflor was into a lot of shenanigans, like *payola*, particularly involving the management of the controversial Bacolod Real Estate Development Corp. that owns the reclamation area.

The claims were shot down as "dark schemes and wild concoctions" by the city legal officer, who himself is embroiled in a controversy with some of the city councilors, foremost among them, Archie Baribar, a relative of Verdeflor.

The CLO, Allan Zamora, who has been acting as spokesperson and alter ego of the mayor, has been dropping dark hints about Baribar's involvement in some ticklish scams, like the city's purchase of some 200 cows and its current land-shopping spree. So far, no real bombshells have been fired yet, and Baribar has prudently kept his peace.

Verdeflor himself has been trying to act as peacemaker, but he has announced that he is going on leave to try to hasten his recovery and get up from his wheelchair. He has also announced that he is running for reelection and must have felt challenged when a councilor twitted him during a radio interview by asking how he will run when he cannot even walk.

* * *

THE GRISLY photo of little Crizele Acusin that appeared on the front page of the INQUIRER on Dec. 31 draw as many shocked reactions in Bacolod as it apparently did from other parts of the country. I hope the editorial of the INQUIRER on Tuesday sufficed to explain the paper's motives.

I empathize with the editor and the staff, having had a similar experience as editor of the Daily Star.

This was when a 10-year-old boy was kidnapped, tortured, killed and later wrapped all over with masking tape by a pervert who also happened to be a close friend of the boy's family.

When we published the photo of the trussed-up body, several callers denounced us for "lack of sensitivity." I had to explain that we had published it at the request of the child's father—he even supplied the picture—because he wanted everybody to see the horror of what happened to his son and so that other parents would be more wary about entrusting their children to anyone.

A question on smugglers 'risky' to witness

(From page A1)

he seemed prepared to do, he could have put himself and his family in serious danger.

Santiago wisely pointed out that it was bad enough that Espiritu was suffering from severe emotional stress for testifying against his former boss, and that it would be asking too much of him to put his life in danger just to answer a question that was not essential to the discussion of the impeachment charges.

While the debate on whether or not Espiritu should answer Drilon's question rambled on for about 30 minutes, nothing was heard from the prosecution. It did not lift a finger to prevent Espiritu from being pressed to answer a potentially "life-threatening" question.

It was only after Santiago and Mendoza had come to Espiritu's rescue that Prosecutor Rep. Joker Arroyo stood up to join the move to forgo the pursuit of that question. A classic case of too late the hero.

Ironically, Espiritu's maternal uncle, Sen. Ramon Revilla, even urged him to answer the question even though he (Revilla) was under no obligation and had not been asked to put pressure on his nephew to do so.

No cross

The defense acted prudently in not cross-examining the former finance secretary. Espiritu's credibility is beyond reproach. He is completely knowledgeable about the matters he testified on in direct examination. The cross-examination may only highlight certain parts of his testimony that relate to the charge of betrayal of public trust.

A careless cross-examination question may trigger an answer that could enable Espiritu to expound on the items the prosecution may have overlooked during the direct examination or were disallowed because they are not material or relevant to the BW Resources issue.

Besides, the defense knew that Espiritu's testimony on the President's shareholdings in BW is insufficient to prove the fact of ownership of such shares.

When Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. allowed Espiritu to testify on the President's statements that Mr. Estrada earned a lot, and later lost heavily, from his BW shares, it was made on condition that the testimony would only be treated as part of Espiritu's narration of events.

The President's statements, as testified by Espiritu, cannot be cited by the prosecution to show that indeed he has substantial holdings in BW. A matter which may explain why he showed undue interest in the investigation conducted by the Philippine Stock Exchange on BW and its majority owner, Dante Tan, for stock manipulation.

Besides, the prosecution was unable to present any document that shows that the President or, for that matter, any person who is acting as a dummy for him, owns any BW shares. There is no "smoking gun" to link the President directly to BW.

So why risk an otherwise good position to an unpredictable cross-examination?

Gentle handling

The gentle, almost reverential, questioning of Espiritu by the senator-judges is understandable. Not only did he once hold a powerful government position, he had, one way or the other, dealt with most of them during his stints as chief executive officer of the Philippine National Bank and a large private bank.

Surprisingly, it was Sen. Francisco Tatad, who openly professes his close ties with President Estrada, who posed the questions that enabled Espiritu to clear his name on the accusations leveled against him by Ernesto Maceda, spokesperson of the President, on the reasons why he (Espiritu) had testified against the President.

Espiritu was allowed to explain without interruption the circumstances behind the collapse of the bank and investment company that his family used to own, which is now the subject of an investigation for violation of banking laws by the government.

The explanation did not elicit any contradictory remarks from the senators. Not one of the senators allied with the President took up the cudgels for the presidential spokesperson. The net effect? Espiritu was able to vindicate himself in terms of Maceda's accusations at the expense of the latter's credibility.

Direct order

Except for one item, the direct examination of former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. did not show anything that he had not earlier talked about before the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Testifying on the calls he got from the President, Yasay said that in his fifth conversation with him, the President ordered him "to clear Dante Tan and coordinate things with Yulo," or words to that effect.

The alleged instruction came after the SEC had commenced its investigation on the suspicious rise in the price of BW shares.

Unfortunately, the SEC investigation was overtaken by events. The Compliance and Surveillance Group of the PSE, which was headed by lawyer Ruben Almadro, released ahead of the SEC its report on insider trading and other forms of stock manipulation by Dante Tan.

This supposed order constitutes the strongest proof of the President's alleged interference in the performance of Yasay's quasi-judicial duties.

In the course of his direct testimony, Yasay explained that although the SEC is under the supervision of the Office of the President, the President has no authority to overrule or modify the actions taken by the SEC in the performance of its quasi-judicial functions. One of these is to investigate violations of the securities laws as in the case of Tan.

Upon the defense's request, Yasay's cross-examination was postponed for Monday, Jan. 15. Before the proceedings ended last night, the defense served notice that it intended to confront him with the statements he made in the past in regard to the BW stock controversy.

Erap . . .

(From page A1)

to build mansions; awarding favors to family and friends; and violating the Constitution by appointing Cabinet members and other officials to "multiple" positions.

A "daily tracking poll" of 300 by Pulse Asia Inc. showed that Mr. Estrada's net trust rating plunged from 4 percent at the start of his trial to minus 19 as of Jan. 8.

But the same survey found,that one in every 10 respondents did not want the President to resign.

The most damning findings came from a third tracking poll conducted by a group called Data Advisors Inc. All 200 of the poll's respondents belonging to the middle class in the National Capital Region said that they believe that Mr. Estrada is guilty of the impeachment charges against him.

"The direction of the survey trend shows that since the trial started, (Estrada) has suffered a big loss in (trust) capital," Pulse Asia's Felipe Miranda said in a radio interview with dzMM.

Miranda noted that the President's 4-percent net trust rating when the impeachment trial started last Dec. 7, dropped to minus 5 percent by Jan. 8.

This plummeted further to minus 19 after Equitable PCI Bank's Clarissa Ocampo testified that the President had signed a false name, "Jose Velarde," on documents relating to a P500-million trust account.

Miranda declined to disclose the full findings of the Pulse Asia survey until Wednesday.

On resignation

But he revealed that the respondents were evenly divided on the question of whether or not the President should resign.

Four out of 10 agreed that the head of state should step down, while another four out of ten disagreed. Two out of 10 were undecided.

But in the Data Advisors poll, 71 percent—or 28 percent more than the number of people who said the same thing on Dec. 23—said that if the impeachment court were to acquit the President, they would support or join anti-Estrada rallies.

Twenty-nine percent, on the other hand, said they would reserve judgment until later.

"Peoples' minds are not yet clear on whether they should ask the President to resign or not to resign," Miranda said, analyzing the findings of the Pulse Asia survey.

He said that Filipinos are known to be a forgiving lot and tend to give their leaders "the benefit of the doubt" even if the latter are no longer popular.

"For the public, the issue of resignation is not yet resolved. What is resolved now is the matter of trust," he said.

The same survey also showed that Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's net trust rating hit a low of minus 39 percent (21 percent trust her; 60 percent do not).

The survey was first commissioned by the Philippine Star until Dec. 20. Later, Pulse Asia opted to continue the survey on its own.

Miranda said the polling was done on "face to face" basis.

'Guilty' on all counts

In the SWS survey, 44 percent of the people polled on Dec. 23 believed that the President "accepted bribery from jueteng" lords. Only 24 percent believed he was "not guilty."

On the question of whether he "amassed wealth during his term which enabled him to build houses for his women," 42 percent found him "guilty," and 26 percent found him not guilty.

A total of 46 percent (against 22) found the President guilty of awarding "special favors, such as contracts, to his family or friends."

Forty-one percent against 28 percent found Mr. Estrada "guilty" of violating the Constitution "by giving multiple positions to his Cabinet members or his appointees."

A total of 71 percent of the respondents said it would be "better" if the President "testifies personally" at the impeachment trial, while 28 percent said that he should allow his lawyers to do the job.

Asked whether they believed that it was "important" for the President to testify, 81 percent answered in the affirmative.

The SWS survey was commissioned by a group known as Bigkis Pinoy Foundation.

Supporting rallies

The Data Advisors telephone poll was conducted after the resumption of the Senate impeachment trial on Jan. 3, when Mr. Estrada's lawyers cross-examined whistle-blower Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Ninety-nine percent of those polled said they watched the Jan. 3 hearing, prompting Data Advisors to say that the rating "could be the highest in the listing of Philippine television (sic) akin to the viewership rating of the (coverage of the) Edsa revolution in 1986."

Fifty-six of the respondents believed that Singson's answers during his cross-examination strengthened his earlier testimony, while 5 percent said the President's lawyers were able to damage the governor's credibility.

Bombings

If the President gets a guilty verdict from the impeachment court, 65 percent said that they want Macapagal to take over the presidency in accordance with the Constitution.

But 35 percent of those polled said they believe a civilian-military government should be installed instead.

The telephone poll also asked respondents who they thought was behind the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila—communists, Moro rebels, the opposition, the military and police.

Eighty percent said they did not know. Five percent blamed the military and police, 4 percent said it was the communist rebels while a mere 2 percent blamed Moro rebels.

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ROXAS-DUMAGUIT	SUN 4:00 PM	CULASI	SUN 5:30 PM	DUM
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Erap men asked me not to talk–Espiritu

(From page A1)

and capacity to pay.

Espiritu also testified that the President had asked him to follow Lucio Tan's wish to bring about a merger of PNB and Allied Bank.

Espiritu said he told Angara that he was not asking for help, and that his son, John, explicitly asked him not to bother anyone and to let his case proceed on its own.

Besides, he said, his son's case has not been filed yet.

Forgive me

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has recommended to the Department of Justice the filing of criminal charges against John Espiritu, former chair of Westmont Investment Corp. (Wincorp), and 29 directors and officers of the company.

Wincorp was found to have violated the anti-graft provisions of the Securities and Regulations Code by engaging in banking functions not covered by its license. It did not register securities with the SEC.

Wincorp reportedly brokered, using Westmont Bank (now United Overseas Bank), the lending of about P7 billion in funds from over 1,000 individuals and 20 companies. Many lost their investments.

Angara denied trying to pressure Espiritu.

"I did not stop him from testifying, not even in a subtle or indirect way," Angara said in a statement.

Angara said there was "nothing sly or malicious" with his call. He said he called up Espiritu because their mutual friends had advised him that Espiritu "might want a call from him after his appointment as executive secretary."

Angara said the problems of Espiritu's son cropped up in their conversation and when he was "apprised of it" he said: "I will look into it."

Family consultation

Espiritu said he consulted his family and relatives, including Sen. Ramon Revilla, before he made the decision to testify. He disclosed that his mother and Revilla were siblings.

Close to tears and his lips quivering, Espiritu said he came forward to testify "for God and country."

In the first day of his testimony, Espiritu said that the President was a partner of Dante Tan in BW Resources, the publicly listed company whose stocks skyrocketed 5,000 percent in a period of eight months in 1999 because of insider trading and stock manipulation.

Espiritu said that the President had confided to him that he earned a lot from the BW Resources.

Despite Espiritu's serious allegations, the defense panel did not cross-examine him yesterday. But 14 senators took turns questioning the prosecution witness.

Espiritu said the P600-million behest loan was approved on July 2, 1999 when BW Resources had a negative net worth.

The loan was approved, he said, after two meetings of the PNB board composed of 11 directors who were all nominated by the President.

Narvasa approved loan

Records show that chief defense counsel, former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, was the PNB chair when the board approved amendments to the P600-million loan agreement with BW Resources.

In a five-page copy of the 2606th regular meeting of the PNB board, Narvasa was listed as present at the board meeting on July 16, 1999 which approved the amendments. Also present were bank president Benjamin Palma Gil and directors Santiago Cua Jr., Roberto Marquez, Alfonso Reyno Jr., Miguel Romero, Gregorio Santayana III, Domingo Santiago Jr. and Cielo Santiago.

Narvasa had retired as Chief Justice on Nov. 30, 1998 and was appointed PNB chair shortly thereafter.

The board acted on a recommendation made by PNB management to amend "one of the conditions in the grant of its P600-million omnibus line (loan) as approved by the board of directors under Resolution No. 8 of July 2, 1999."

The amendment was made after BW asked PNB to make it a "co-debtor instead of an accommodation mortgagor for its acts to be considered valid."

Yesterday, Narvasa left the Senate earlier than his colleagues and could not be reached for comment.

Espiritu said he came across the P600-million loan to BW Resources because as finance secretary, he had coordinating supervision over government financial institutions such as PNB.

He said every two weeks he met with the heads of the PNB, Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, Development Bank of the Philippines, and Land Bank of the Philippines to discuss matters such as transactions entered into by these GFIs.

Espiritu said he was given copies of reports concerning loans and other transactions of PNB.

In one meeting, he said he asked PNB president Palma Gil to explain the P600-million loan to BW Resources because he saw from the report that BW did not meet the required 3Cs for a loan—character, capacity and collateral.

Different loan

He said the board reported that this BW loan was different (*naiiba*) from all other PNB transactions.

Espiritu said he asked Palma Gil if he had reported the loan to the President and if he had secured prior clearance of the Chief Executive.

At that time, he said, the President had issued a memorandum dated Jan. 25, 1999 requiring all GFIs to submit for approval of the Office of the President all contracts worth P50 million and above.

"The PNB president answered, 'Not only this report but the loan was granted at the initiative of the President of the Republic,'" Espiritu said.

Defense lawyer Raul Daza, who had been objecting from the start of Espiritu's testimony, asked the court to remove Espiritu's answer from the records because it was hearsay.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile stood up to support Daza's motion, citing a ruling issued by the court after a one-hour caucus of senator-judges before the trial began yesterday.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had announced that the senator-judges decided that the issue about the PNB loan should not be discussed until the prosecution was able to link it to the BW stock manipulation.

Davide, however, allowed Espiritu to respond to questions by Private Prosecutor Hernando Perez on the loan "as part of the narration" of the witness.

Zero value

According to Espiritu, BW offered a 51-hectare property located in Tagaytay City as collateral for the loan. It was, however, deemed to have zero value because the property owner has not secured a right of way.

He said it then offered BW shares as collateral, which on the basis of 50 percent of its value at that time was worth about P400 million. However, Espiritu said the shares should also get zero value because as shares of the company getting the loan, it was considered a secondary collateral.

Illegal

Espiritu, replying to questions by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, said the grant of the loan was illegal.

"This is a violation of the rules and policy with regard to loan approval and this was because BW did not meet the 3Cs," Espiritu said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay asked if he would have granted the loan to BW if he were PNB president.

"Definitely not. There was no compliance (with the requirements). As a banker, I will not grant the loan," he said.

Espiritu divulged information about Lucio Tan when Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad asked him whether he resigned or was fired on Jan. 5 last year.

Biggest scam

Espiritu said that if the President wanted, as claimed by his spokesperson Ernesto Maceda, to fire him as early as November 1999, then it would have something to do with what he told the President around that time.

He said he remembered that he had warned the President that the planned privatization of PNB would become the "biggest scam" yet in his administration.

He said Lucio Tan and his brother Mariano had gone to see him to change Tan's plans to buy PNB.

He said Lucio Tan wanted not just to buy PNB but to have it merged with Allied Bank.

"I was angry and we raised our voices because the commitment I made to the President is (that) I will help Lucio Tan, but (the PNB privatization) must go through public auction . . . but (Tan) wanted a merger," Espiritu said.

He said he told Tan that the President was committed to transparency in government transactions and to maximize benefits for the poor.

When he reported Lucio's overtures to the President, Espiritu said he got this response: "I was called by the President and he told me, 'Ed, whatever Lucio wants, give it to him,'" he said. "Because of that I made up my mind to resign."

Two months later, Espiritu resigned over allegations of corruption in the administration.

Yasay's testimony

For a period of two days in November 1999, the President vigorously defended Dante Tan and instructed then Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. to clear his friend in the multibillion-peso BW Resources scandal that nearly caused the collapse of the Philippine stock market.

This was the highlight of the direct testimony of Yasay yesterday when he recalled that Mr. Estrada had called him three times on Nov. 17 and 18 in a bid to intercede on behalf of Tan and to also intervene in the opening up anew of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) trading band width that could have allowed stock manipulators to unload the controversy-riddled BW Resources shares.

According to Yasay, he received the first call in the morning of Nov. 17 with the President on the other end of the line "very angry."

"*Ano'ng nangyari sa imbestigasyon nyo* (What happened to your investigation)?" Yasay recounted Mr. Estrada as asking him in angry tone.

To this, Yasay said he informed the President that the SEC was undertaking "emergency measures" to prevent other stock manipulators from further dissipating the PSE.

The President then asked what will happen to those who mired in the BW scandal.

Yasay said it was the PSE, which was a self-regulating agency, that was conducting a more thorough probe because the scandal involved mostly brokers.

"*Hindi puede yan. Sabi ko sa inyo bilis-bilisan nyo yan* (That can't be, I told you to speed things up)," Yasay quoted the President as saying before hanging up.

Both Presiding Officer Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and defense counsel Raul Daza noted that House Prosecutor Raul Gonzalez was asking Yasay questions during the direct examination that tended to "impeach" the witness.

Yasay's credibility was put into question when Gonzalez asked him why he deliberately withheld the information from Yulo and PSE compliance and surveillance group head Ruben Almadro that it was Tan who called the Nov. 26, 1999 meeting at Ciudad Fernandina.

"I was concerned that since it was the President who told Tan to ask me to schedule that meeting with them. I may not be able to comply with that instruction because (Yulo and Almadro) might not come," he said.

Daza quipped later that the defense was "happy that the question was asked."

And just before Gonzalez ended his direct examination of Yasay, he again put his witness under the spotlight when he asked about the alleged bribe he received from Tan as coursed through a certain Eva Lisbo.

According to Yasay, Lisbo was only known to him as a fellow member of the Cosmopolitan Church.

It was at this point that Davide chided Gonzalez for impeaching his own witness.

Dante Tan . . .

(From page A1)

at P2 per share to Sen. Rene Cayetano, who he said, earned P64.725 million from the shares.

The businessman said Cayetano paid for his shares only when the Senate blue ribbon committee started its investigation of the BW scandal.

Cayetano earlier denied Tan's allegations, saying that these were part of the dirty tricks of the President.

Espiritu's testimony

Espiritu told the impeachment court against the President on Thursday that the President had a stake in BW Resources and admitted profiting from the company's abrupt rise in the stock market in 1999.

Espiritu had quoted Mr. Estrada as telling him: "Ed, I have already made a lot of money from BW shares" when he went to meet the President about the BW stock market controversy.

In a press conference, Tan recounted that during the SEC investigation of the BW stock scandal Yasay called him up to offer help as the SEC chair believed that he was a victim of manipulation.

But Yasay asked for 200,000 BW shares to be placed under the account of a Maria Christina Marasigan.

In return, Yasay promised to introduce him to a lawyer and a public relations practitioner, who would help him out of his woes in BW, according to Tan.

Tan said Yasay, through his lawyer Benny Villamor, later on asked for $50,000 in "*pabaon* (pocket money)" for the US trip of the then SEC chair in December 1999. Villamor supposedly said it was customary to extend that kind of goodwill to the SEC chair.

Tan recounted that Villamor picked up the cash in Tan's office and that Yasay confirmed the collection of the money afterward.

Eva Lisbo

While Yasay was in the United States, an Eva Lisbo presented herself to Tan and asked for P1 million to pay off members of the media.

Tan showed reporters a cancelled Metrobank check of P1.025 million for Lisbo, whom SEC sources said acted as PR for Yasay during the height of the BW scandal.

SEC sources said Lisbo, known to have been the PR for tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, was often seen visiting Yasay at the SEC chair's office at the time.

Tan reiterated that Ruben Almadro, former Philippine Stock Exchange compliance and surveillance group head, offered his advice on how he could fend off accusations that he manipulated BW stock prices.

Almadro made the offer through intermediaries after he resigned in March last year, according to the businessman.

Tan said that he met with Almadro and that he agreed to pay the former CSG chief an initial P1.5 million for a set of recommendations.

Almadro later asked for an additional P900,000, which was given to Almadro through his friend, Nelson Ty, according to Tan.

Almadro and Yasay have denied Tan's allegations.

A judicial inquiry led to the indictment of Tan and three others for securities fraud, a crime punishable by up to 21 years in jail.

No P150-million payment

Tan also debunked Espiritu's statement that he paid Mark Jimenez P150 million so that he could regain control of BW.

He also denied Espiritu's claim that he was involved in the campaign of Mr. Estrada in the 1998 presidential election and that they met in Mr. Estrada's campaign safe house.

Tan said he met with Espiritu twice at the Department of Finance after the BW scandal broke out.

"The first time was when there was a problem in BW. He asked me to explain what really happened in the stock market. So he was the first one to know the whole truth," Tan said.

"The second time was when I was accompanied by Buboy Virata. We discussed how his (Espiritu's) publicly listed company called Ebecom could be transformed into an IT company. That is the only two meetings we had," he said.

The shares of BW Resources (now Fairmont Holdings) soared from P3 in May to P107 in October 1999 but plummeted soon after amid allegations that the rapid rise in prices had been manipulated. It closed at 67 centavos yesterday.

Tan said he used to own 18 to 20 percent of BW Resources. Now it's down to 10 percent.

'We never . . .

(From page A1)

never heard of Mr. Estrada's partnership with Dante Tan, until last Thursday when Espiritu testified.

This is the reason why Mr. Estrada had allegedly exerted pressure on the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange to help exonerate Tan from charges of insider trading and stock price manipulation.

"In the two and a half years that I have worked for the President, I have never heard of him owning BW shares," said Diokno, a former UP professor who had been strongly rumored to replace Ronaldo Zamora as executive secretary.

Even Medalla, also a former UP professor, agreed that as far as he could recall, nobody in the Cabinet ever discussed the possibility that President Estrada is part owner of BW or that he was a beneficiary of the transactions.

"Never was I told that he was directly involved in BW," said Pardo, one if not the most trusted and loyal adviser of Mr. Estrada.

Pardo confirmed that Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara had indeed called Espiritu last Thursday, the same day the former finance chief testified before the impeachment court.

Espiritu said Angara called him and offered to help his son, John Espiritu, with regard to estafa charges he's facing after Westmont Investment Corp. suffered a cash crunch last year.

"I called him (Angara) on his cell phone and he confirmed that he called Espiritu. He said there was nothing wrong since he only offered to help the son," said Pardo.

Pardo is vice chair of the Economic Coordinating Council while Medalla and Diokno are both ECC members.

Laarni leaves Hong Kong, flies to New York

(From page A1)

QUIRER yesterday.

In Manila, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Maceda said that he does not know if President Estrada's mistress will come back to Manila to testify at the impeachment trial, but asked the public to give Enriquez the benefit of the doubt.

House prosecutors gave conflicting statements on whether they would cite Enriquez for contempt if she failed to return by Jan. 17, the date on which she is supposed to take the stand to shed light on the "unexplained wealth" allegedly accumulated by the father of her three children.

Private Prosecutor Hernando Perez said that before Enriquez flew to Hong Kong, prosecutors tried to talk to her about the case. That visit prompted her to leave on short notice, he said.

In an interview with radio station dzMM, Maceda said "we will wait for the developments in the case of Laarni. Some say she is on vacation; others say that she has left for medical treatment."

"If she comes back before the trial is over, then the whole story is over," he said. "But I am not saying (that she will) because I do not know whether she will return or not."

Bur he took issue with charges that Enriquez, a former movie starlet and one of several longtime companions of the President, "fled" to Hong Kong to escape a summons to testify at the impeachment trial.

Maceda contended in a radio interview that "it is wrong for them to say that when you flee, this means your are guilty. But that law applies only if she is the one accused. Laarni is not the one accused."

On Thursday, Senate Secretary Lutgardo Barbo said there was "deceit" in Enriquez's act of leaving the country after Senate representatives went to her home to serve a subpoena Wednesday night. They were told to return the next day, but when they did, Enriquez had already left the country.

Not on trial

But Maceda concentrated on explaining that Enriquez herself was not on trial. "If, for example, I leave for Hong Kong, does that mean I am guilty? Of course not. I am not the one accused," he said.

He said that the same argument applied to a couple of the President's friends, plastics king William Gatchalian and banker George Go, who have reportedly also left the country after being linked to the President's alleged offenses.

In a press briefing, Acting Press Secretary Michael Toledo said the President was mum on the issue of Enriquez.

Asked whether Mr. Estrada had commented on Enriquez's departure, Toledo said, "He did not. He was busy meeting with officials to resolve the garbage problem."

Toledo could also not say why Enriquez left the country.

Disagreement

Rep. Sergio Apostol, chief prosecutor for the bribery charge against President Estrada, said the prosecution team would cite Enriquez for contempt and also demand the cancellation of her passport if only to compel her to testify on the so-called "Erap mansions" reported to have been secretly acquired by Mr. Estrada.

However, asked if the prosecution would file contempt charges against Enriquez and other potential witnesses close to the President who reportedly cannot be located, Apostol's fellow prosecutor, Joker Arroyo, said that would be of no use since they had already left the country.

"They're not here, so what's the use? Never mind, let the public judge them for this kind of escape," he said.

He also said prosecutors would not ask the foreign affairs department to revoke Enriquez's passport.

"Asking for her passport's cancellation is petty. That's trivial compared to the more important case against the President. Why should we concern ourselves?" Arroyo asked.

"I don't think that she is coming back here until after the end of the trial," he said in another interview.

Senate Secretary Barbo said that the impeachment court could impose sanctions on Enriquez, but added that the process would depend on the prosecution's next move.

Enriquez left with a female companion on a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Hong Kong hours before the impeachment court granted a request by the prosecution to issue a "hold-departure order" against her.

Arroyo again condemned Enriquez's "escape," calling it a "below-the-belt" move to avoid testifying.

Embellishment

But Arroyo and Prosecutor Oscar Moreno downplayed any adverse effect that Enriquez's non-appearance as a hostile witness may have on their presentation next week.

While the rest of the prosecution panel raised a howl over her departure, Arroyo and Moreno —members of the team tasked to prove the charge of the President's "unexplained wealth"—said that they have enough evidence to pin down Mr. Estrada even without Enriquez's testimony.

"As far as we're concerned, (getting) Laarni (to testify) is nice but hers is only a relationship (with the President). It's nothing compared to Erap's enormous wealth. She's not a major player," Arroyo said in an interview.

"Laarni is a mere decoration, she's just an embellishment. The target here is Erap, the ill-gotten wealth is with Erap," he added.

Moreno, in a separate interview, said that the prosecution's case on Impeachment Article B-2, the charge of unexplained wealth and corruption against Mr Estrada, would stand on its own strength.

Mr. Estrada's and Enriquez's "relationship is not the issue on trial anyway," Moreno said.

"She's just a beneficiary of the corruption taking place in Malacañang," he added.

'Don't come back'

But private prosecutor Perez complained that the President's accuser have been given a specific time frame to present their case on each impeachment article.

"The problem with not having your witness is that your presentation gets delayed," Perez said.

Around 100 members of the militant group Sanlakas who staged a picket at the Mendiola Bridge were in no hurry to see Enriquez return. The anti-Estrada protesters had this message for the President: "Follow Laarni to Hong Kong, take Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) and the rest of the *trapos* with you—and never come back. ***With reports from Volt Contreras, Martin Marfil and Jerome Aning***

Talk of Metro folk: Big garbage stink

(From page A1)

landfill, which was just closed on Dec. 31, Toledo would not confirm nor deny it.

"Let me just say that all possible options are being looked into," he said at a press briefing.

"At the end of the day, what is important here is that political will would have to be exercised eventually, if we have to solve the garbage crisis that we face right now," he added.

A highly placed source said Mr. Estrada's announcement would indeed be on the reopening of the controversial landfill whose operation had been a burden to the residents of Antipolo City and nearby areas for a number of years.

Malacañang is considering two alternative dumping sites, both in Luzon.

The President and Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara met yesterday with Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Jejomar Binay, Presidential Flagship Adviser Robert Aventajado, Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, Justice Undersecretary Regis Puno and Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares Jr. to thresh out what Toledo called the "inherent complications" of the matter.

Other local government officials also attended the meeting that started at 11 a.m. and that was supposed to end 4 p.m., Toledo said.

Mr. Estrada had earlier ordered the indefinite shelving of the plan to dump Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara Island in Antique.

The plan had roused vehement opposition from residents of Antique and Aklan and the Senate as well.

No notice

In San Jose, Antique, residents are elated by the halt order but doubtful that the President would be true to his word.

However, representatives of the MMDA and of project contractor DMCI Holdings Inc. told the INQUIRER yesterday that there has been "no official notice to that effect."

"We have not received any verbal or written order from the President or Secretary Angara to stop our project in Semirara," said lawyer Cornelio P. Aldon representing the Office of the Solicitor General and the MMDA.

"We will go through the legal process for this project. Let us respect the decision of the courts," he said.

Aldon and DMCI counsel Roel Pacio attended the hearing yesterday for a writ of preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order sought by the United Antiqueños, a group opposing the Interim Integrated Sanitary Landfill Project in Semirara.

Rev. Fr. Mark Matillano, parish priest of Caluya, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he did not believe there was truth to the announcement that the project to dump garbage on Semirara was on indefinite hold.

Matillano said he had instructed barangay officials of the islands surrounding Semirara to be vigilant against garbage dumping.

He cited rumors that the government was dumping the garbage on Sibato, which he described as an isolated island near Mindoro with no electricity or means of communication and an estimated population of 500.

Antique Gov. Exequiel Javier said he hoped the President would be true to his word.

"I believe that he will listen to the sentiments of the people," said Javier, who attended yesterday's hearing.

"We know the President has a record of backtracking from his statements, but we fervently pray he won't do it this time," said Henry Frangue, SK Federation president of Caluya.

Rani Rodriguez, convenor of the United Antiqueños, told the INQUIRER that a bank account would be opened for the financial assistance sent by a number of persons and groups, including the US-based Pagtatap Foundation.

He said more protest actions against the plan to dump garbage on Semirara were being scheduled despite the President's halt order.

Syndrome

A 20-day TRO that lapses on Jan. 18 has blocked the dumping of garbage on Semirara.

It effectively halted the MMDA from proceeding with the contract with DMCI and R-II Builders Inc. on using the island, a marine turtle sanctuary, as a two-year interim facility for garbage.

Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez yesterday said Metro Manila's garbage problem was the result of the government's "big-contracts syndrome" that tended to ignore alternatives to the collect-and-dump method.

Alvarez said that the worsening problem was a symptom of the Estrada administration's failure to govern, and that concerned officials wasted "1[illegible] months" seeking big contracts wherein "mountains of dirty money" could be made out of garbage collection and dumping.

"The dumping mindset of these officials is a product of, and is at the same time caused by, these big-bucks contracts and deals," he said, adding:

"Millions of pesos are changing hands yearly between officials, big contractors, and just about everyone involved in the collection, transport and disposal of garbage."

Alvarez called for the resignation of Aventajado as head of the Greater Metro Manila Solid Waste Management Committee, for supposedly resorting to the dumping method despite other available technologies.

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) added its voice to the opposition to the use of Semirara as dumping site, saying this could jeopardize its pending application for clearance to declare the Visayas as a zone free of foot-and-mouth disease.

In a press statement, the BAI said the dumping of garbage on Semirara could result in the spread of the disease.

It also said the application for clearance was pending at the World Animal Health Organization in Paris. ***Reports from Donna S. Cueto, Volt Contreras and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Hazel P. Villa, PDI Visayas Bureau; Reuters***

Pacific supports PJGF golfest

CEBU Pacific is the official carrier of regional qualifiers for the fourth PLDT Philippine International Junior Golf Championships slated at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's East Course next week.

"Cebu Pacific will fly players from the Visayas and Mindanao who have made it to the national team," said Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada, president of the organizing Philippine Junior Golf Federation.

"Cebu Pacific has been very supportive of the championship from the very beginning and I would like to thank Lance Gokongwei for his generous support of our junior golf program."

Cantada also said that 12 players from Guam arrived yesterday for the tournament scheduled from Jan. 16-19. "We expect most of the participants to hit town today," he said.

Aside from PLDT as title sponsor and Cebu Pacific as official carrier, other major backers are official energy drink Milo, Outback Steakhouse, Pisanti Golf, Mitsubishi Motors, Bingo Bonanza.

Bronze standard in SEAG

By June Navarro

THE JOINT task force formed by the Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Olympic Committee finalized yesterday the criteria for the selection of national athletes bound for the Southeast Asian Games this year in Kuala Lumpur.

SEA Games chief of mission Freddie Jalasco said the PSC-POC task force agreed to make a bronze-medal finish or higher as the barometer in determining the composition of the national delegation in the biennial games in September.

Athletes who won at least a bronze medal beginning in the 1999 SEA Games in Brunei or any international tournament of the SEA Games caliber to date will be assured of a slot in the training team, Jalasco bared.

He also said that members of the national team would be known on July 31, after the SEAG officials had pruned down the number of qualified athletes to about 200.

Montaña tests Ateneo-Pioneer

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	9	2
Welcoat	8	3
Montaña	6	4
Blu Sun Power	6	5
Hapee	5	6
Ateneo-Pioneer	4	6

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
12 noon—Mercury Freight vs Dazz
2:00 p.m.—MLQU-Boysen vs Skyland
4:00 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Montaña Jewels

By Dennis U. Eroa

GLAD TO be in the semifinal, Ateneo-Pioneer starts its bid for a bigger prize as it battles equally hungry Montaña Jewels today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

"We'll try our hardest," said Nato Caluag, team manager of Ateneo-Pioneer. "To have reached this far is already an achievement."

To make the six-team semifinals, the Blue Eagles needed a playoff win over the Ana Freezer Specialists.

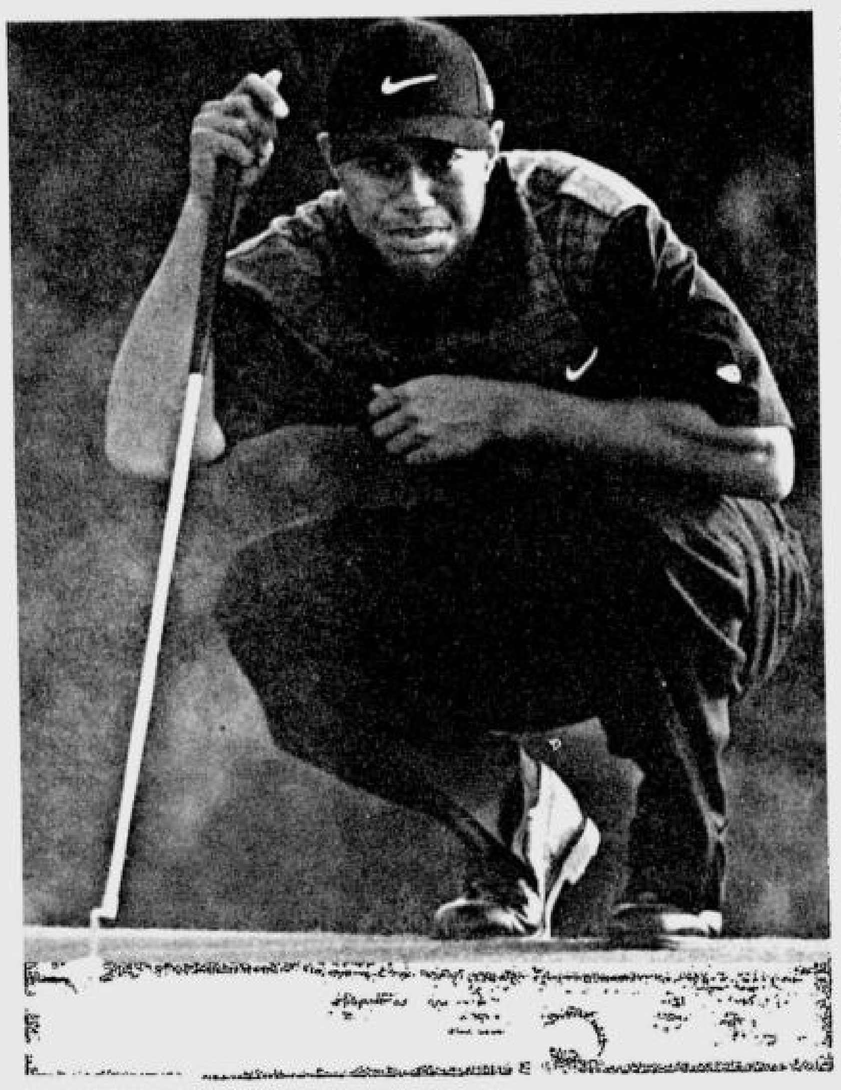
The 4 p.m. encounter will be preceded by the game between MLQU-Boysen and Pampanga pride Skyland Estate at 2 p.m., with the Painters seeking the PYBL crown.

MLQU-Boysen and Skyland Estate downed Dazz and Mercury Freight in the semis, respectively, to arrange a winner-take-all match for the title.

Montaña hammered Ateneo, 65-58, last Dec. 16 but coach Leo Isaac remains cautious of the Jewels' chances.

"Ateneo packs a deadly pressing game," Isaac said. He also noted the improved performances of slotman Enrico Villanueva.

Orly Torrente banners Montaña's bid even as Ateneo pins its hopes on Rich Alvarez, Rainier Sison and Edrick Ferrer.



3 DOWN AP

Tiger Woods lines up his putt en route to a 3-under-par 70 yesterday to stay 3 down behind Justin Leonard in the first round of the Mercedes Championships in Kapalaua, Hawaii. Leonard shot 67 for a 1-shot lead over Ernie Els. At 69 were Billy Andrade and Stewart Cink, and first-time winners Rory Sabbatini of South Africa and Michael Clark.

Sy re-elected PBL chair

DIOCELDO Sy, Blu Sun Power team owner, yesterday was reelected as PBL chair at the Makati Coliseum.

The 42-year-old Sy, credited for making the PBL financially stable during his first term, was unopposed.

Welcoat's Raymond Yu nominated Sy.

"How can I refuse the league's vice chair?" Sy said. "Kidding aside, this is a big challenge and a tremendous honor."

As proof of the PBL's unity, there was no major change in the composition of its officers.

Yu remains as vice chair while Dennis de Guzman, Rudy Mendoza and Jesse Chua still sit as treasurers.

Others present were lawyer Jimmy Javier (PharmaQuick), Bernard Yang (Hapee), Nato Caluag (Ateneo-Pioneer), Manny Salgado (Osaka Iridology) and Leo Isaac (Montaña Jewels).

Jarencio case a mere misunderstanding–Tan

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TANDUAY Gold team owner Bong Tan yesterday downplayed the controversy involving Pido Jarencio's "side contract" which the PBA vowed to investigate starting Monday.

He said Jarencio's contract with the Rhummasters was within the terms of the league's Uniformed Players Contract and that the whole thing "was just a misunderstanding."

"Maybe they thought some bonuses were part of the side contract," said Tan. "But we'll explain our side to the PBA. It was just a misunderstanding."

Jarencio's "side contract" prevented Pop Cola from signing him following a trade that involved fellow Rhummaster Rudy Hatfield in place of Noli Locsin and a future draft pick. The PBA has asked Jarencio to shed light on the issue on Monday.

Tan also denied making skyrocketing offers to unsigned slotmen in the PBA like Danny Ildefonso and Marlou Aquino.

"We can get players from the draft or through trades, but we'll not tender offer sheets because it antagonizes us with other teams," said Tan.

It's Altamirano

PUREFOODS last night announced that it is getting back the services of Eric Altamirano, who helped the Hotdogs win a PBA championship back in 1997.

Altamirano, who was given a one year guaranteed contract by Purefoods, won over a short list of candidates that included Joel Banal of the Metropolitan Basketball Association.

He will take over the reins from Derrick Pumaren, who moved to Tanduay Gold two weeks ago.

Gutson defeats Action

GUTSON'S Billiards' Romy del Rosario bested Action Billiards' Monching Mistica, 7-5, to clinch the crown in the recent Cuetec 9-Ball Billiard Tournament at the MPTV Sports Bar.

Other participants included Oca Camoro of Rommels Billiards, John Boyet Milanes, Ray Cirian, Anton Nicolas of Topstick, Mario Tolentino of Spring Maid and Boy Cornelio of I&CS.

Cuetec Cues, the world leader in billiards cues, is holding the series of tournaments weekly starting Mondays at 4 p.m.

Amateurs can also join by competing in the weekly tournaments held by MPTV in different billiard halls.

The tournament is telecast every evening on SBN 21, Mondays to Fridays, at 11.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA—Toronto Raptors vs Boston Celtics at 8:30 a.m. (r – 9:30 p.m.) on ESPN and Indiana Pacers vs Phoenix Suns at 11:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

US NCAA—Georgia Bulldogs vs Mississippi Rebels tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Super Bowl XVIII Highlights - L.A. Raiders vs Washington Redskins (r) at 7 a.m. and Super Bowl XIX Highlights - Miami Dolphins vs San Francisco 49ers at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Jalasco is BAP head–Puyat

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines chair Gonzalo (Lito) A. Puyat II said yesterday that he declined the position of BAP president and instead called on the various regional directors, members of the executive committee and the commissioners of the national coaches commission, the referees commission and the commissions on mini-basketball and women's basketball to "have peace and harmony, stay strong and stand united" within the organization. In a statement, Puyat said Freddie Jalasco, the incumbent Seaba president, is still the BAP president.

Scribe files raps vs 2 attackers

SPORTSWRITER Miramon Nuevo of Today yesterday filed charges of physical injuries against two staffers of Commissioner Leonardo Celles of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Nuevo also charged Jesus Sta. Maria Paolo and Eugne Garcia of grave threats at the Western Police District Station 9.

Paolo and Garcia were immediately placed under preventive suspension by PSC chair Carlos Tuason as recommended by Celles pending resolution of the investigation.

The PSC also created an investigative committee composed of PSC senior executive assistant Horacio Miranda, legal officer Julia Llanto and PSC deputy personnel manager Manuel Ibay to shed light on the incident.

Tuason also urged Nuevo to file a formal complaint with the PSC in order for the PSC to press charges against his assailants.

Nuevo said he would seek the help of his paper's in-house lawyer.

Tuason assured Nuevo's safety within the Rizal Memorial compound.

By preventive suspension, it means that both Paolo and Garcia are barred from entering PSC premises until after charges pressed against them are settled.

June Navarro

Slasher media launch today

THE TRADITIONAL media launch for the keenly awaited World Slasher 8-Cock Derby will be held this noon (Saturday) at the Foodome across the Farmers Market in Cubao.

Visiting and local participants will be presented to the media, highlighting the inaugural leg of the two-part "Olympics of Cockfighting" which is set for Jan. 15, 17 and 19 at the historic Araneta Coliseum.

Invited to the blue-ribbon affair are topnotch cocker-breeders Dan Gray of Louisiana, who won the World Slasher Derby in 1994 together with two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago with their Firefly entries; Tom Cooper and Jeff Hudspeth of North Carolina, Pennie Farbros and Ric Abullos of Canada, Sedfrey Linsangan of Guam, Riochi Saito of Japan, Jorge Torres and Romy Arciaga of California and Robert Rodgers and Johnny Philipps of Georgia. Also entered are the battle-tested gamecocks of veteran internationalists Ray Alexander (Alabama), Carol Nesmith (Mississippi), Bobby Jones and Donnie Joe Sparks (Texas), James MacWhite and Oscar Akins (Tennessee) and Mike Glover and Scott Baird (Alabama).

Fiery Cuban

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

PAT Croce, the offbeat president of the Philadephia 7ers, is right. The publicity-conscious and hands-on owner of the Dallas Mavericks, Mark Cuban, is playing with fire in his continuous criticism of game officials. By repeatedly criticizing the referees, Croce said the Internet billionaire is actually declaring "war" on NBA Commissioner David Stern.

On Jan. 4, the league fined Cuban $250,000 for his verbal abuse and public criticism of the whistletooters following the Mavs' 107-104 home loss to the Detroit Pistons a day earlier. A goaltending non-call earned the ire of the 42-year-old Cuban, whose latest fine came on his first anniversary as Mavericks owner.

Overall, Cuban has been fined four times this season for making disparaging remarks against the referees, bringing his total tab to $295,000. Previously, in an eight-day span in November, he also coughed up $5,000, $15,000 and $25,000 in escalating fashion for three separate but identical transgressions.

The fines have gone up each time not because the deep-pocketed Cuban can afford it, but because he's a repeat offender.

Cuban did not appeal the stiff $250,000 fine. In fact, he pooh-poohed it, saying he was glad it was for so much because the amount would generate more publicity for his team and ultimately would pay off in merchandise sales. He even hinted he might not stop his tirade against inept officiating, Stern's gag rule notwithstanding.

"I think Mark has declared war on David Stern," said the energetic 46-year-old Croce, who once rappelled from the roof of the First Union Center (the 76ers' homecourt) to the arena floor before a game. "I don't think that Mark understands that when you screw with fire you get burned. David Stern has put too much into this league to make it the best, and there's no way he's going to let one person destroy it. I'm enthusiastic (about the game), but I don't criticize (the refs). There's a line. I hope Mark doesn't destroy himself crossing that line."

Money might not be an object to Cuban, who ranked 143rd on Forbes' 2000 list of richest Americans with a net worth of $1.9 billion (including the nearly $1.5 billion he netted after selling Internet giant Broadcast.com, of which he is a cofounder to Yahoo! in 1999).

The league could fine Cuban as much as $1 million the next time he opens his mouth and if the amount again does not deter him from criticizing the referees, a suspension is a possibility.

Cuban undoubtedly is popular with his players and the fans. This season, he spent $50,000 to upgrade the Mavs' locker room, including the addition of video game machines, and has made life in the NBA more comfortable for his players by also supplying them with ultra-soft towels and custom-made courtside chairs. (Hey, he even gives visiting teams postgame buffets.)

Cuban's energy and enthusiasm have helped revitalize the Mavs franchise and transform the once-moribund team into one of the leading contenders for the Midwest Division crown this campaign.

Agassi battles Kafelnikov

MELBOURNE, Australia—Yevgeny Kafelnikov overpowered Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-4 Friday and advanced to a pre-Australian Open showdown with Andre Agassi, the man who beat him for last year's Australian title.

Kafelnikov, feeling confident on one of his favorite surfaces, said he was looking forward to a severe test from Agassi in the Colonial Classic final Saturday, two days before the Open begins.

"Hopefully I can carry on like that all through the Australian Open," the 26-year-old Russian said after keeping Ferrero on the run with heavy hitting to the corners.

Kafelnikov broke Ferrero once in the first set and three times in the second, reaching 5-4 with a forehand down the line and then hitting two aces as he served out the match. *AP*

SkyCable to air matches

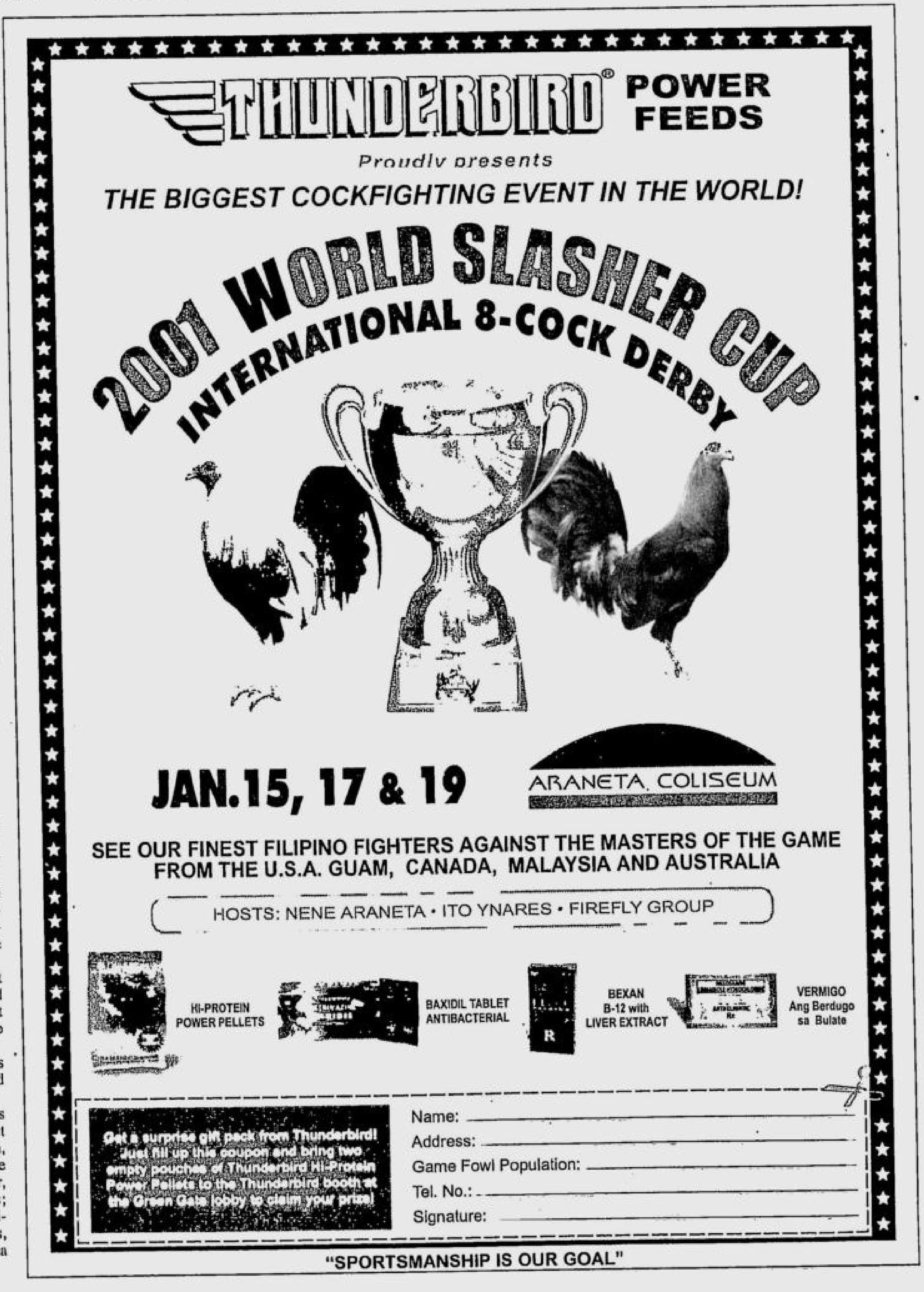
THE 2001 Australian Open Tennis Championship will be aired on SkyCable from Jan. 15-28.

This exclusive coverage will be brought to Philippine viewers live via satellite direct from Melbourne Park, Australia.

The two-week event is the year's first Grand Slam Tennis Tournament with the world's top players participating.

Defending champions are Andre Agassi and Lindsay Davenport.

Other major players include (men's), Marat Safin, Magnus Norman, Gustavo Kuerten, Pete Sampras, Patrick Rafter, Mark Philippoussis; (women's) Venus Williams, Martina Hingis, Monica Seles, Jelena Dokic, among others.



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AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

NBA results

Atlanta 107, Golden State 96; Houston 76, New York 75; Orlando 101, New Jersey 87; Portland 83, Charlotte 70; Milwaukee 102, Dallas 94; Phoenix 93, Indiana 85. *AP*

Yao rallies, wins Ladies Open

By Jong Arcano

NOT over until it's over.

The shock of utter frustration over a groggy finish turned to tears of joy for Aileen Yao yesterday as she rallied to win the PLDT-Philippine Ladies Open at Wack Wack East.

Yao won by one stroke after the Taiwanese leader fumbled with a double-bogey on the final hole.

Yao, taking a break from her studies at Cal State Long Beach where she enjoys a golf scholarship, felt she had lost it all after staggering home with four consecutive bogeys from the 14th for a five-over-par 77 and a 237 total.

The former world jungolf champion was already crying when Hung Chin Huei, who held a one-stroke lead over Yao with one hole left, made her final drive.

Hung, playing in the final threesome ahead of Yao's flight, hooked her drive on the watery 18th and hit the fairway bunker. Next, she punched out into a greenside sandtrap.

Needing a par to win and a bogey to force a playoff, Hung blasted past the green with her blast and then chipped to within four feet.

As Hung's sidehill, downhill putt for bogey fell two rolls short, Aileen's father Albert rushed to her daughter with his arms raised and both made an emotional embrace as fireworks exploded from afar.

"This victory is for him, I've wanted to win this one not just for myself but for my father," said Yao, who tasted victory on local shores for the first time in three years.

She trailed leader Ruby Chico-Walker by four strokes going to yesterday's final round.

Ironically, the last time Aileen won a tournament (Taiwan Open), it was the same Hung whom she beat for the crown.

Since Aileen started playing at age 11, she has improved each year.

Yao, whose mother died of cancer some four years ago, lost in this tournament by a big margin to Sri Lankan Thuhachini Selvaratnam last year at Manila Golf.

Hung was tied for second by compatriot Shih Huei Ju (80) with their similar 238 aggregates.

Chico-Walker, the second round leader, collapsed with an 83 and wound up third, three shots off Yao.

Tiny jungolfer Jayvee Agojo finished fifth with an 82-242, two better than national player Carmellete Villaroman-Calimag (83) and Aileen Chua (82).

Tiger Woods trails Justin Leonard by 3 strokes in Hawaii A15

AILEEN in a tearful hug with her father, Albert. ROMY HOMILLADA

President's golf prelude to big things

SOBREPEÑA

THE PRESIDENT'S Invitational Pro-Am Cup will only be the prelude to a bigger undertaking which will put Philippine golf back on its feet.

The kickoff leg of the Asian Davidoff PGA Tour will be held Jan. 25-28 at the Manila Southwoods, bringing together the Tour's finest players in tandem with the country's leading amateurs.

"The President's Invitational Pro-Am Cup will only be the start of our big involvement with golf starting this year," said Manila Southwoods chair Bob Sobrepeña.

"Starting March, we will unveil the new local golf circuit to be sanctioned by the Asian PGA Tour and partly financed by the proceeds of the President's Invitational Pro-Am Cup."

Sobrepeña said at least 10 tournaments will be spread out over four months with each offering P1 million in total purse.

"The number of tournaments could go higher depending on the support of other golf clubs," said Sobrepeña.

Under the plan envisioned by Sobrepeña, participating golf clubs will be asked to shoulder half of the purse—P500,000—with the other half provided by them.

"But since we are just starting, we're expected to shoulder the whole amount," he said.

The President's Invitational Pro-Am Cup is the first of such format in the Asian PGA Tour. In fact, it is one of only two pro-am events which counts in the world rankings, the first being the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Under the unique format, each pro will be assigned two amateurs who will play 36 holes each using their respective handicaps. Aside from the individual pro and tour events, there will also be a separate competition for amateurs using their full handicaps.

Unlike typical legs, there will be no cuts for the pros.

At least 10 Filipino pros, including automatic invitees Cassius Casas, Gerald Rosales, Danny Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello, are taking part in the event.

Frankie Miñoza, priming up for his Japanese Tour campaign, will be one of six sponsors' invitees. Robert Pactolerin and Mars Pucay are also expected to be given sponsors' exemptions.

Simon Dyson of England, who topped the Order of Merit last year with $282,371.29, is expected to see action alongside No. 2 Jyoti Randhawa of India and Yeh Wei-Tze of Taiwan.

The President's Invitational Pro-Am Cup is one of two international events to be hosted by Manila Southwoods. The second Casino Filipino Open is scheduled March 1-4 to be tentatively held at the Masters course.

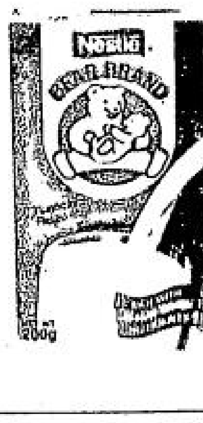
Media-Maritime tourney Jan. 27

WG&A supports the "1st Media-Maritime Golf Tournament" set Jan. 27 with tour packages in various destinations in the country for winners and participants of the project.

WG&A PR manager Gina Virtusio said they are happy to support the project designed to raise money for the welfare fund of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

Virtusio endorsed the "golf-for-a-cause project" as something that would be a lot of fun for maritime and a media golfers as well.

The tournament's major sponsors include Keppel Philippines and Asian Terminal, minor sponsors: Del Rosario & Del Rosario Associates, Maritime Training Center of the Philippines, Pobar Marine, H20, Southfield Agencies, and Pandiphil.



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First Prize : P50,000	Feb. 21, 2001	Feb. 14, 2001
Second Prize : 20,000	Mar. 21, 2001	Mar. 14, 2001
Third Prize : 10,000		

*GMA, North Luzon, Central Luzon, South Luzon1, South Luzon2, East Visayas, West Visayas, North Mindanao and South Mindanao

GRAND DRAW PRIZES IN 4 AREAS*	DRAW DATE	DEADLINE OF ENTRIES
First Prize : P500,000 Second Prize : 200,000 Third Prize : 50,000 15 Consolation Prizes of P10,000 each : 150,000	April 27, 2001	April 20, 2001

*Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and GMA.
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Wanted in China, nabbed in Manila

IMMIGRATION agents on Tuesday arrested Wu Zhizhong and his alleged accomplice, Li Ming Diao, in a condominium in Binondo, Manila and seized from them a bag containing P698,000. The agents said Wu is wanted in Xiamen, China for smuggling of cars and luxury items.

Gerald G. Lacuarta

'Unhealthy' women nabbed

POLICE on Thursday rounded up 28 young women during simultaneous raids on several bars in five barangays in Valenzuela City. The women, mostly just over 18 years old, were arrested for working without health permits, police said.

Christian V. Esguerra

QC holdup men kill cop

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

PO2 Bienvenido B. Batac of the Cainta police was killed Thursday night trying to arrest two robbers who held up an FX taxi in Quezon City.

But before dying, the rookie cop managed to kill one of the robbers and wound the other in a shootout.

Batac, 28, of Palawan Street, Sampaloc, Manila, was shot four times, but he managed to return fire and kill the unidentified robber, described as 25-30 years old, 5-foot-5, fair, barefooted, and wearing a black shirt and brown pants.

SPO3 Resty de Leon said the other suspect, Jun Abernas, was taken to the Quirino Labor Hospital for treatment of his wound.

FX passenger Mark Anthony Q. Calderon, 48, of Cubao, Quezon City, was hit in the thigh during the shootout, De Leon said.

Police said the two men held up the FX taxi (PWT-527) of Eduardo R. Regina, 39, of Marikina, about 11 p.m. Thursday on K-Mart Road at Loyola Heights, also in Quezon City. The taxi was bound for Rodriguez, Rizal.

Armed with a 9 mm pistol, the two men took the valuables of passengers.

SPO3 De Leon said the robbers got off the taxi and were about to flee when the passengers shouted for help.

Batac, who was just a few meters away waiting for a ride to UP-Katipunan, heard their shouts and came to their aid.

He shouted to the two suspects to stop but the two men allegedly fired at him, forcing Batac to shoot back, said De Leon. Batac was shot four times, including once in the head, De Leon said.

The passengers grabbed Abernas, who was hit on the abdomen, De Leon said.

Malonzo men 'raided' Caloocan office over rice from Asistio, say teachers

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A RANKING officer of the Caloocan Division of City Schools yesterday denounced city hall officials for accusing public school teachers of electioneering just because they received sacks of rice from Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo's bitter foe, Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio.

Malonzo's men led by his secretary Francisco Veza, city administrator Mamerto Manahan, city engineer Arturo Samonte and information officer Susan de Leon allegedly barged into the division office on Thursday to question Asistio's donation.

In a letter to division superintendent Elizabeth Manalo, administration officer Asuncion Manalo said the group's action "is reminiscent of a Gestapo-style tactic, which is abominable."

Asuncion Manalo also reported that the city hall officials, accompanied by policemen, barged into the office of property officer Gregorio Cabatuando at about 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

"Manahan questioned particularly the distribution being conducted by our office of the rice sent by Asistio as assistance to the teachers of the second district," she said.

She said Malonzo's men also confronted Cabatuando for using a building to store 800 sacks of rice from Asistio and confiscated a list of Macario Asistio Sr. High School teachers who were supposed to receive the rice.

Asuncion Manalo said Manahan had warned that the employees involved could be charged with electioneering.

"How could they charge the employees when we are not still within the election period?" Manalo said.

"It's obvious that the public officials' move was politically motivated," she told the INQUIRER. "Perhaps Malonzo felt bad when he learned that Asistio's assistance came first."

Asistio, who is in his last term as congressman, will run for mayor against Malonzo in the May elections.

Edu's inaction leaves barangays budget-less, says Liga

MAKATI barangay leaders yesterday assailed Vice Mayor Eduardo Manzano for delaying the endorsement of two vital ordinances affecting the delivery of basic services to the city.

Because of Manzano's inaction, the barangays do not have the funds to pay for water and electricity for their barangay halls and the wages of personnel particularly those in charge of peace and order, Liga ng mga Barangay chair Rodolfo Sese said.

"We would appreciate a positive response from the vice mayor," said a statement from the city government. "But if (Manzano) is not in favor of the ordinances, then he should say why, instead of sitting on them for almost a month."

Manzano's signature is needed before the approved ordinances can be transmitted to the mayor, Elenita Binay.

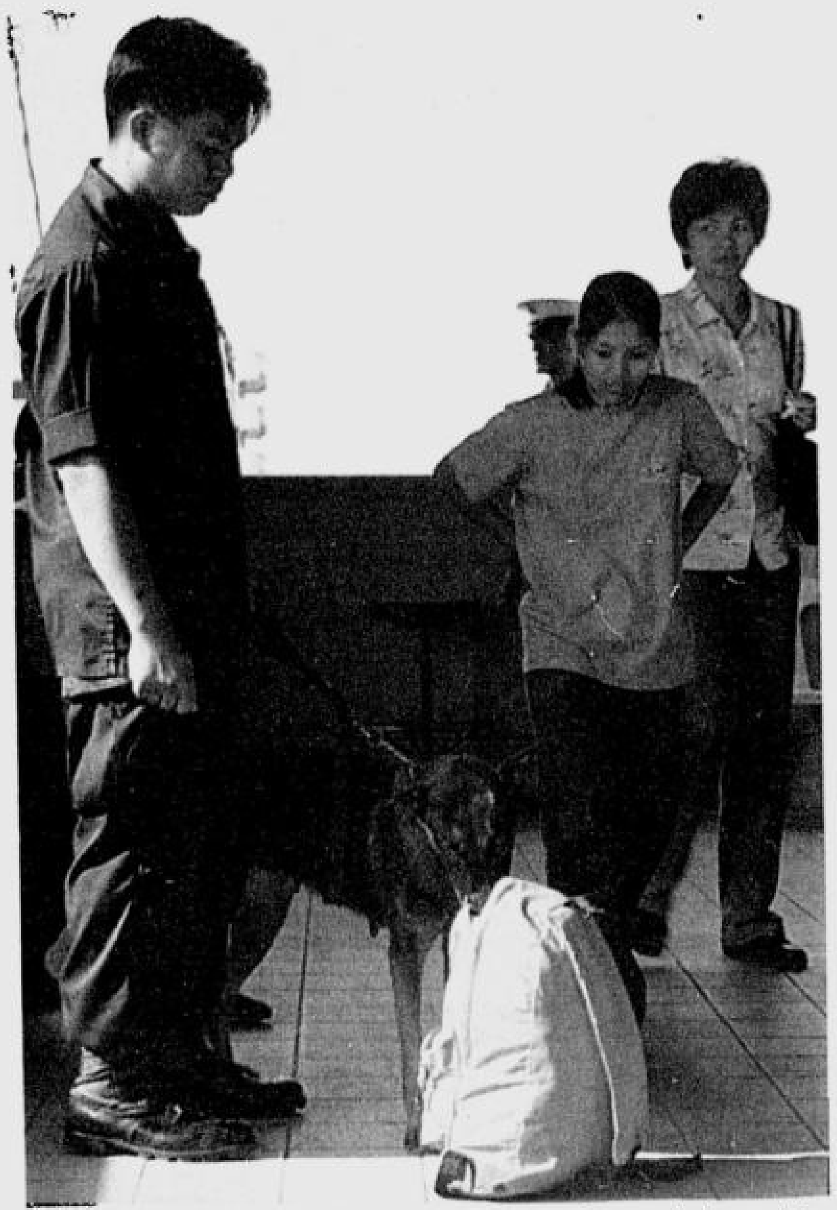
The city council last month approved City Ordinance No. 2000-081, the city's budget for 2001, and City Resolution No. 2000-220, renewing the garbage collection contract.

Copies of the ordinances were received by Manzano's office for signature on Dec. 15.

The barangay leaders pointed out that the Local Government Code requires the vice mayor to sign an approved ordinance "within a reasonable time," based on the nature of the ordinance and its urgency.

"We believe that based on these criteria, the 'reasonable time' prescribed has already lapsed," barangay leaders said.

"We hope that politics is not the reason behind the unexplained inaction of the vice mayor," they said.



DOG-STYLE. A K-9 checks commuters' bags for explosives at the North Avenue MRT station in Quezon City. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Campus bomb check also covers cops

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

EVEN policemen seeking to enter school campuses would be searched after an alert order was raised yesterday in Metro Manila schools following Thursday's bomb scare which forced the cancellation of classes.

The Philippine National Association of School Security Organizations (Philnasso) announced that the Metro police chief, Director Edgar Aglipay, had given the go-signal to search even policemen who want to enter campuses.

"Under the circumstances, all are suspect," said Philnasso president Col. Jose Dino.

He said security personnel of schools, especially in Manila, have been ordered to enforce very stringent security measures and to search even school buses entering the campus.

In a memorandum issued yesterday, Dino also ordered that the stringent security be extended outside the school premises, citing trash cans, nearby buildings and plants as possible locations of explosives.

"We are urging parents and school officials to stay calm," Dino said in a phone interview. "Don't be afraid to go out because we are doing everything to secure these places and look after the safety of the children."

At least 18 schools in Manila have reported receiving phoned-in bomb threats this week, prompting the Manila Police Explosives and Ordnance Division to make the rounds of the campuses and search for explosives. All the threats turned out to be false alarms.

Thursday, classes were cancelled at the Celedenio Salvadaor Elementary School, Araullo Elementary School and the Sta. Ana Elementary School following reports that bombs would explode in the schools.

Mariano Ponce High School, Felipe Calderon High School, Mariano Ponce Integrated School, Isabelo Reyes Elementary School, Antonio Morgan Elementary School and the Lakandula Elementary School were also said to have received bomb threats.

The St. Joseph's School, Roxas Elementary School, Manuel Lukban Elementary School, Epifanio delos Santos School, Rafael Palma Elementary School, Margarita Roxas Elementary School, Arellano University, Paco Citizen's Academy and Burgos Elementary School also received false bomb threats.

2 laborers stabbed dead

TWO laborers were stabbed dead in separate incidents in Quezon City on Thursday.

Police said they still have no suspects in the killing of Arningo Manlangit Jr., 25, of Old Barrio, Bigte, Norzagaray, Bulacan, and Rogelio Barad, 30, of Silangan Payatas.

Manlangit was found dead under traffic lights along Quirino Highway, Novaliches at about 5:30 a.m. Thursday.

Security volunteers Gregorio Delfino and Sergio Avendano of Barangay Novaliches Proper were on patrol duty when they noticed people milling about under the traffic lights.

Manlangit was bleeding from a stab wound in the chest. He was still breathing, the volunteers said.

They brought him to the Bernardino Hospital and later to the Quezon City General Hospital. But Manlangit died Thursday night.

At about the time of Manlangit's death, Barad burst into the barracks of his fellow laborers at the Triple-E Building on Velasquez Street inside the UP Campus in Diliman. He was crying out for help saying he had been stabbed.

Police later saw that Barad also had a laceration on the head.

The other workers brought him to the East Avenue Medical Center, where he was declared dead at 11:25 p.m., police said.

Philip C. Tubeza

'On Target' tomorrow

RAMON Tulfo's 'On Target' column will appear tomorrow, Sunday.

Wazzzzup?!!

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Back On The Right Track
(Keeping Your Bowel Movement In Check)

The first step in treating constipation is to understand that normal frequency depends on an individual's metabolism and bodily cycle. Each person must determine what is normal. Frequency varies widely, from three bowel movements a day to three a week.

It is believed that in many cases, constipation, or the infrequent passing of hard, dry stools, usually starts in childhood. Fear of passing stools can lead to a lifetime of complications which include anal fissures, hemorrhoids and even colon cancer if it is untreated. Anyone, young or old, who regularly strains on the toilet can develop painful cracks around the rectum. Since fissures bleed, there is often blood in or around the stools.

The first step in treating constipation is to understand that normal frequency depends on an individual's metabolism and bodily cycle. Each person must determine what is normal. Frequency varies widely, from three bowel movements a day to three a week. Most people worry that that they do not move their bowels often enough, but, in fact, regularity and comfort of bowel action are more important than frequency.

For those suffering from constipation, it is important to maintain regular toilet habits to re-establish normal bowel functions. Follow a regular routine based on your own schedule. Try to move your bowel at the same time everyday. The activity of the colon increases after waking up in the morning and after eating, so the urge to move your bowel is usually greatest after breakfast. Get up early in the morning to eat breakfast, exercise and sit on the toilet. This practice will then train your body to follow this pattern, making it a daily ritual.

A major cause for constipation may be attributed to ignoring the urge to move the bowel. Some people delay their bowel movement because they do not want to use toilets outside the home. Others ignore this because of emotional stress or because they are too busy. Children may postpone having bowel movement because of stressful toilet training or because they do not want to interrupt their play. All these delaying mechanisms disrupt the body's natural excretion cycle and may lead to the absence of the desire to move. Promptly obey all urges to have a bowel movement—do not delay or postpone a visit to the bathroom as the urge will disappear. Continuously ignoring this urge will change your normal sensation in the rectum and may lead to chronic constipation.

Squatting is the best position for bowel movement. Elevate your feet on a footstool in front of the toilet or bend forward so that your abdomen rests against your thighs.

Avoid excessive straining. If you feel stool in the rectum but can't expel it, you may find it helpful to apply external pressure by pushing with your hand placed in front of the rectum or just behind it.

Whenever possible, plan in advance for changes in your daily routine. Constipation often occurs during travel, vacation or stressful situations. Take a contact laxative like Dulcolax (Bisacodyl) with you in case you need them.

A contact laxative stimulates the intestinal wall to contract and thus speeds up the elimination of feces. Because the feces spend less time in the intestine, less water is reabsorbed into the blood vessels, which helps keep the feces soft making it easier to expel.

Dulcolax (Bisacodyl), is a contact laxative and is the proven, reliable way to get your bowel movements back on track. It works directly on the colon to help restore and promote its natural movement. Dulcolax acts within 6-8 hours. One tablet taken at bedtime will result to bowel movement the next morning, allowing you to enjoy your day instead of suffering from that bloated, sluggish feeling you get from being constipated.

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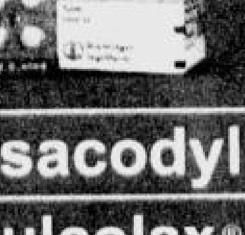

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7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GATAS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
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9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
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12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER
7	DTS	DEATH ROW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

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3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BALAHIBONG PUSA
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
9	ULTRA SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
10	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
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3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
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7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOYS & GIRLS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW
2	ULTRA SURROUND	EX- CON
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BLAIR WITCH 2
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGO NG TONDO
8	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
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3 THE 6TH DAY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Phil. Premiere) Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 TANGING YAMAN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 MEET THE PARENTS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT
1 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 MEET THE PARENTS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE 6TH DAY THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 MEET THE PARENTS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 BALAHIBONG PUSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) THE 6TH DAY
2 (SDDS) LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
3 (DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
4 GOLD (DTS) PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
5 GOLD (DOLBY) TANGING YAMAN
6 GOLD (SDDS) SPIRIT WARRIORS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LETS GO TAMIYA
8 [illegible] KANGKONG
9 [illegible] BALAHIBONG PUSA
10 [illegible] BALAHIBONG PUSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 GATAS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS) KANGKONG
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) THE 6TH DAY
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
2 (DTS) DEATH ROW
3 MEET THE PARENTS

Masagana CINEMA V
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 GATAS
3 KANGKONG

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 GATAS
3 KANGKONG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE 6TH DAY
5 PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 RESERVE
2 KANGKONG
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 TANGING YAMAN
5 BALAHIBONG PUSA
6 THE 6TH DAY
7 SPIRIT WARRIORS
8 LETS GO TAMIYA

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 TATLONG PUSO ISANG PANGARAP
2 HOT SPOT
3 LABAN KUNG LABAN
4
5 WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR ONLY P30.00
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
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3 FIRST STRIKE
4 WHO AM I (Jacky Chan Festival)

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TANGING YAMAN
2 PING LACSON STORY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 KANGKONG
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 THE 6TH DAY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
A KANGKONG

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 GATAS
3 KANGKONG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 GATAS
3 PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4 LETS GO TAMIYA
5 TANGING YAMAN
6 KANGKONG
7 (DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
8 (SDDS) LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
9 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 KANGKONG
4 LETS GO TAMIYA
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 SPIRIT WARRIORS
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 (SDDS) BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 KANGKONG
6 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
7 (DTS) LETS GO TAMIYA
8 PING LACSON STORY
9 GATAS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 LETS GO TAMIYA
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 SPIRIT WARRIORS
5 (SDDS) THE 6TH DAY
6 BALAHIBONG PUSA
7 (DOLBY) PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
8 KANGKONG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 SPIRIT WARRIORS
2 TANGING YAMAN
3 (DTS) LETS GO TAMIYA
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 (SDDS) THE 6TH DAY
6 (DOLBY) BALAHIBONG PUSA
7 (DOLBY) KANGKONG

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson HOT SPOT
Lords
Jennet

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KANGKONG
2 BALAHIBONG PUSO
3 PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4 THE 6TH DAY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 KANGKONG

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 THE 6TH DAY
2 TANGING YAMAN
3 PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 KANGKONG

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 KANGKONG
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 THE 6TH DAY
5 PING LACSON STORY
6 LETS GO TAMIYA

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 KANGKONG
3 THE 6TH DAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 KANGKONG
3 (DTS) THE 6TH DAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS) TANGING YAMAN
3 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
4 KANGKONG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE 6TH DAY
2 LETS GO TAMIYA
3 KANGKONG
4 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS) KANGKONG
4 CRACKER JACK
5 GATAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 KANGKONG
3 TANGING YAMAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 GATAS
3 TANGING YAMAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 TANGING YAMAN
2 THE 6TH DAY
3 GATAS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 DEATH ROW
2 SPIRIT WARRIORS
3 TANGING YAMAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 THE 6TH DAY
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 KANGKONG
4 GATAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS) KANGKONG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 TANGING YAMAN
2 BALAHIONG PUSA
3 THE 6TH DAY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TANGING YAMAN
2 GATAS
3 UNBREAKABLE
4 THE 6TH DAY

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
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2 KANGKONG
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 THE 6TH DAY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) THE 6TH DAY
2 TANGING YAMAN
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 (DTS EX) MEET THE PARENTS

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FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

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a special presentation

Gary V holds mall tours

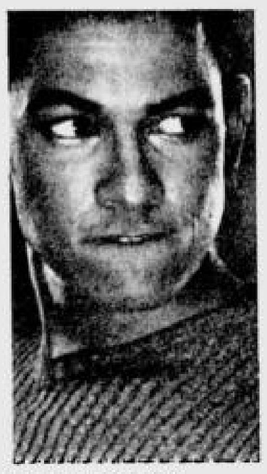
GARY Valenciano starts his "Revive" mall tour at 4 p.m. today at SM North Edsa.

There will be an autograph-signing session after the mini-showcase, featuring selected cuts from Gary V's new Universal Records album, "Reviva," which includes his latest hit, "I Will Be Here."

"Reviva" has been certified gold and is now nearing the platinum mark.

The album zoomed up to the overall No. 1 spot on Tower Records hit charts in all outlets—Makati, Alabang and Ermita—and outsold all foreign and OPM releases.

Also catch Gary V in his other mall appearances at SM Bacoor tomorrow, Jan. 14 and SM Southmall on Friday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.



VALENCIANO

'Loren' on 'trial' tonight

SEN. LOREN Legarda-Leviste shares her insights into the social impact of the impeachment trial in ABS-CBN's monthly documentary special, "Loren," which airs 11 tonight.

The documentary also features updates on the issues that were tackled last year, among them the problem of toxic waste contamination in Clark and Subic; the vanishing culture of the indigenous peoples; the horrifying consequences of abortion; the heroic efforts of mobile teachers in combating illiteracy; the issue of juvenile justice; the growing menace of tuberculosis; and the case of Maj. Noel Buan and Police Chief Inspector Abelardo Martin, who are still held in captivity by the communist New People's Army.

The update on Clark and Subic presents the new victims of toxic waste contamination and the legal action taken by relatives of the victims against the Philippine government and the United States of America.

"Loren" airs every second Saturday of the month. This month's episode is written by Roy C. Iglesias. Executive producer is Pauline Halili. Associate producer is Evelyn Cruz. Researchers are Joan Sullo and Ana Buita.

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STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

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❶ TANGING YAMAN
❷ THE 6TH DAY
❸ BALAHIBONG PUSA
❹ KANGKONG
❺ LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
❻ BALAHIBONG PUSA
❼ MEET THE PARENTS

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IMUS (046)875-3838
❶ THE 6TH DAY
❷ GATAS
❸ TANGING YAMAN
❹ PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
❺ KANGKONG
❻ BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD (034)441-0453
❶ THE 6TH DAY
❷ TANGING YAMAN
❸ BLAIR WITCH 2
❹ DEATH ROW
❺ MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
❻ SUGATANG PUSO

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	KANGKONG
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BALAHIBONG PUSA
MIRAMAR	KANGKONG
ODEON	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ODEON-2	THE 6TH DAY
ROBEN	KANGKONG
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SA IYO ANG SARAP SA IYO ANG LIGAYA
ACT-2	ARAYY
ACT-3	HIRAM NA KATAWAN
ACT-4	BIRADOR
CORONET-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
QUEZON-1	KANGKONG
REMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA
REMAR-2	KANGKONG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-3	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-8	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-12	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	THE 6TH DAY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-2	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
CINEMA-3	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-4	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-5	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	MEET THE PARENTS

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Highbrow meets lowbrow in family feud

By Alexis L. Loinaz

REVIEW

YOU can tell a lot about a movie from the names of its characters. In the James Bond films, you can be sure that with key players like Pussy Galore, Xenia Onatopp and Holly Goodhead, promoting feminism isn't a top priority. Or take "The Matrix," where Neo, the name of Keanu Reeves' character, is actually an anagram for "One" and foreshadows the messianic tone of that movie.

In "Meet the Parents," the newly released comedy starring Robert de Niro and Ben Stiller, the latter actor's character is named Greg Focker; say that last name a little faster to someone and you're bound to either get sworn at, punched or kneed in the groin.

That name alone is an indication of the tongue-in-cheek humor of "Meet the Parents" and provides an inkling of the many laughs the film has to offer.

As you can easily deduce from its title, "Meet the Parents" follows the misadventures of Mr. Focker when he spends one weekend with the folks of the woman he intends to marry. Unfortunately for him, papa and mama (played by the naturally intimidating De Niro and the patrician-looking Blythe Danner, Gwynnie Paltrow's mum) turn out to be testy, upper-crust wasp-y types who not only frown upon his rather tragic surname, but also upon his—to their minds, at least—second-rate job as a male nurse. This, regardless of how much their daughter Pam (played by beautiful, stardom-ready Teri Polo) seems to really love Greg.

Complicating matters is the fact that Pam's father, Jack, isn't quite the gentle florist she's made him out to be; on the contrary, Jack turns out to be a retired CIA agent whose specialty was to weed out double agents in the department.

Even before Greg has had the chance to warm up to the family, Jack has made it his mission to psychologically obliterate Greg and to—in his own words—"bring you down to Chinatown" (as the film's trailer cannily reminds us). Now Greg must survive the weekend, survive Pam's parents and survive a rather sly cat (you'll understand this once you see the film) in order to keep both his relationship and his sanity intact.

Adult humor

"Meet the Parents" features that interesting brand of adult humor which isn't remotely as sophisticated as the kind in "Shakespeare in Love" but not as crass as your typical "There's Something About Mary" (there is, however, one disgusting feces-related gag in "Meet the Parents;" everything else is actually quite tastefully done). In fact, some of the funniest moments in the film are more conversation-driven than they are situational, such as when Greg desperately tries to improvise a dinner prayer but comes across like a stoned, rambling rabbi.

Still, this doesn't mean "Meet the Parents" doesn't have some guffaw-inducing physical comedy. Ben Stiller, probably Gen Y's answer to Billy Crystal, makes full use of his off-kilter appeal to milk as much yuks as he can from several slapstick moments; I particularly took to a riotous water polo scene in which Greg, clad in embarrassingly miniscule bikini trunks, unwittingly volleys the ball straight into the face of one of his opponents—to rather disastrous results.

Key to the film's success is the casting of family patriarch Jack. Thankfully, De Niro—following through on the comic flair he showcased in 1999's blockbuster mob satire "Analyze This"—proves that his relatively untickled big screen funny bone is actually his smoking gun as a thespian, further broadening his already legendary acting range. De Niro's rather deadpan approach to the role, coupled with occasional bursts of melodrama (don't miss the scene where Jack reads a rowdy, heartfelt poem to his deceased mother), creates just the right tenor for the film to keep a straight face while cracking its jokes, and then wink at the audience once the punchline's been delivered.

"Meet the Parents" is directed by Jay Roach, the same helmer of the "Austin Powers" films. And while "Parents'" conservative upstate New York suburbia is a far cry from "Powers'" swinging '60s psychedelia, it's a testament to Roach's diverse comic sensibilities that he can tackle such disparate films and still make them equally raucous (this, of course, does not include the rather flaccid "Austin Powers" sequel which wasn't as remotely funny as its shagadelic predecessor).

It's also noteworthy that Roach's films feature actors with very distinct comic styles: Mike Myers ("Austin Powers") capitalizes on campy humor while Ben Stiller ("Meet the Parents") uses a more wry approach. Still, the director is able to rein in both comedians and allows them to deliver their own unique laughs.

The only setback of "Meet the Parents" is that narratively-speaking, it takes a bit long to hit its stride. For the first 30 minutes or so, the films moves at a rather slumbering pace while it goes through the motions of introducing the characters and setting up the scenarios. But like a nice cup of coffee, once the comedic caffeine kicks in and the pranks start to roll out, the movie achieves a certain giddiness as each hilarious scene unfolds and escalates toward the inevitably sappy climax.

With the combination of De Niro's highbrow pedigree and Stiller's occasionally lowbrow humor, "Meet the Parents" provides some interesting surprises and hearty laughs. And while Stiller's character Greg may have to work extra hard to earn the approval of his girlfriend's folks, "Meet the Parents" already has mine.

> Key to the film's success is the casting of Robert de Niro, who proves that his relatively untickled big screen funny bone is actually his smoking gun as a thespian

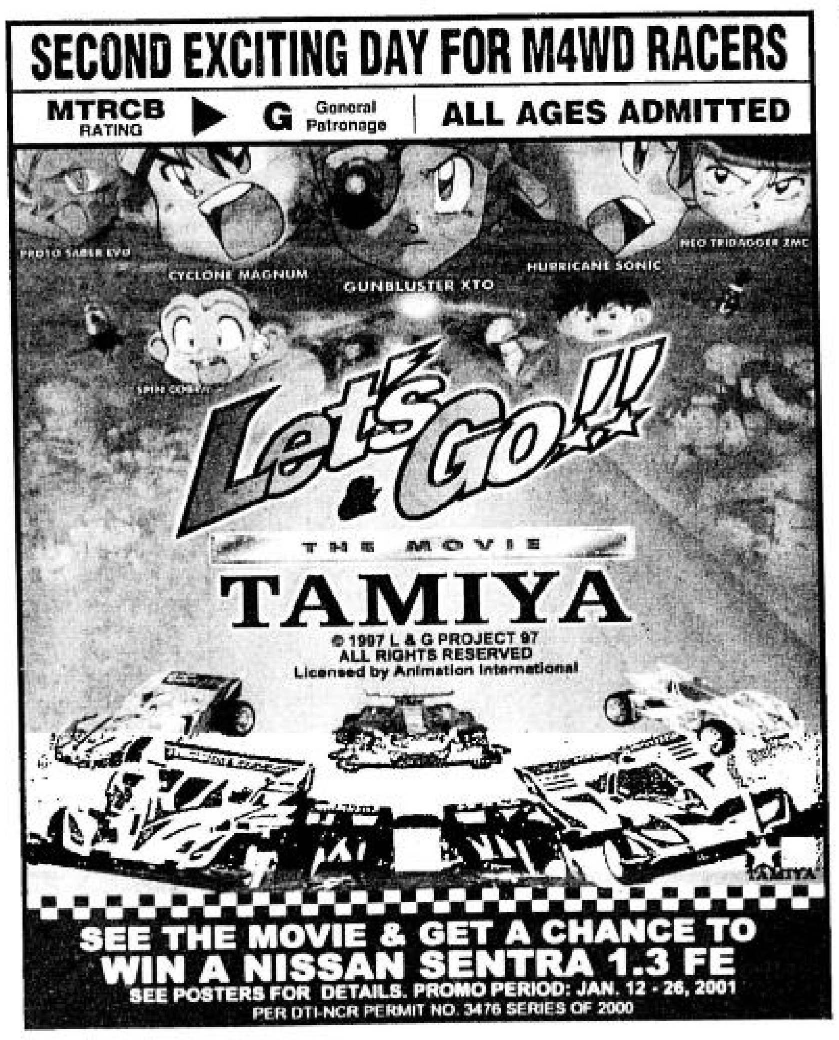
POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TANGING YAMAN 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30
BALAHIBONG PUSA 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	THE 6TH DAY 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 5:50, 7:10, 9:40	MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
MIDNIGHT SCREENINGS
AYALA CINEMAS
SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JAN. 12 (FRI.) & 13 (SAT.)

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (R)	THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE (G)	MEET THE PARENTS (PG-13)	THE 6TH DAY (PG-13)
11:00 AM / 1:10 PM	11:20 AM	11:30 AM / 2:00 PM	11:20 AM
3:20 / 5:30	2:30 PM	4:30	2:30
7:40	5:40	5:30	5:40
9:50	8:50	7:00	8:50
12:00 MN	12:00 MN	9:30	12:00 MN
		12:00 MN	

The Phantom of the Opera
Meet the Parents
THE 6TH DAY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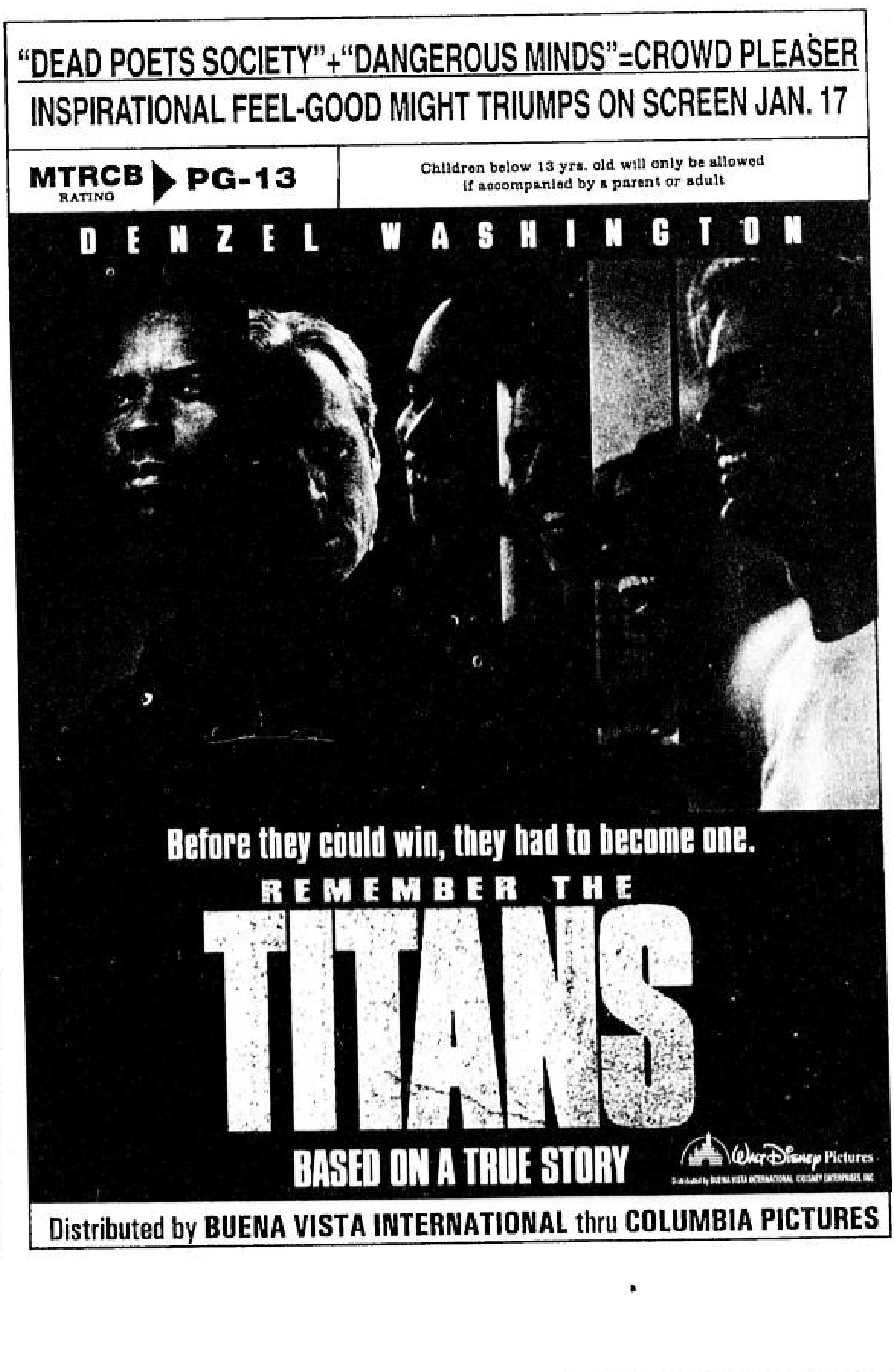
"DEAD POETS SOCIETY"+"DANGEROUS MINDS"=CROWD PLEASER
INSPIRATIONAL FEEL-GOOD MIGHT TRIUMPS ON SCREEN JAN. 17
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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Walt Disney Pictures
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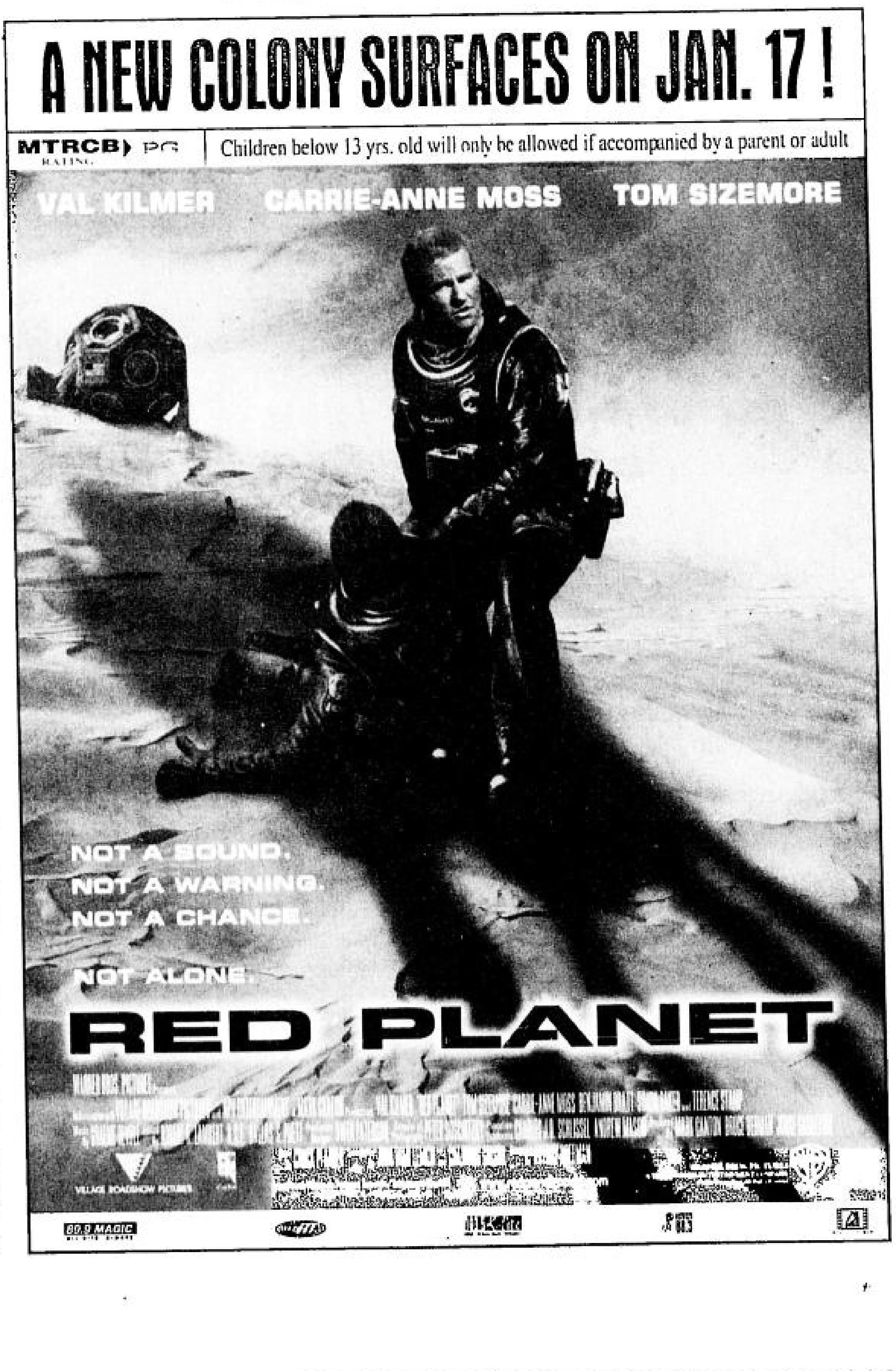
A NEW COLONY SURFACES ON JAN. 17 !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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NOT A WARNING.
NOT A CHANCE.
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RED PLANET
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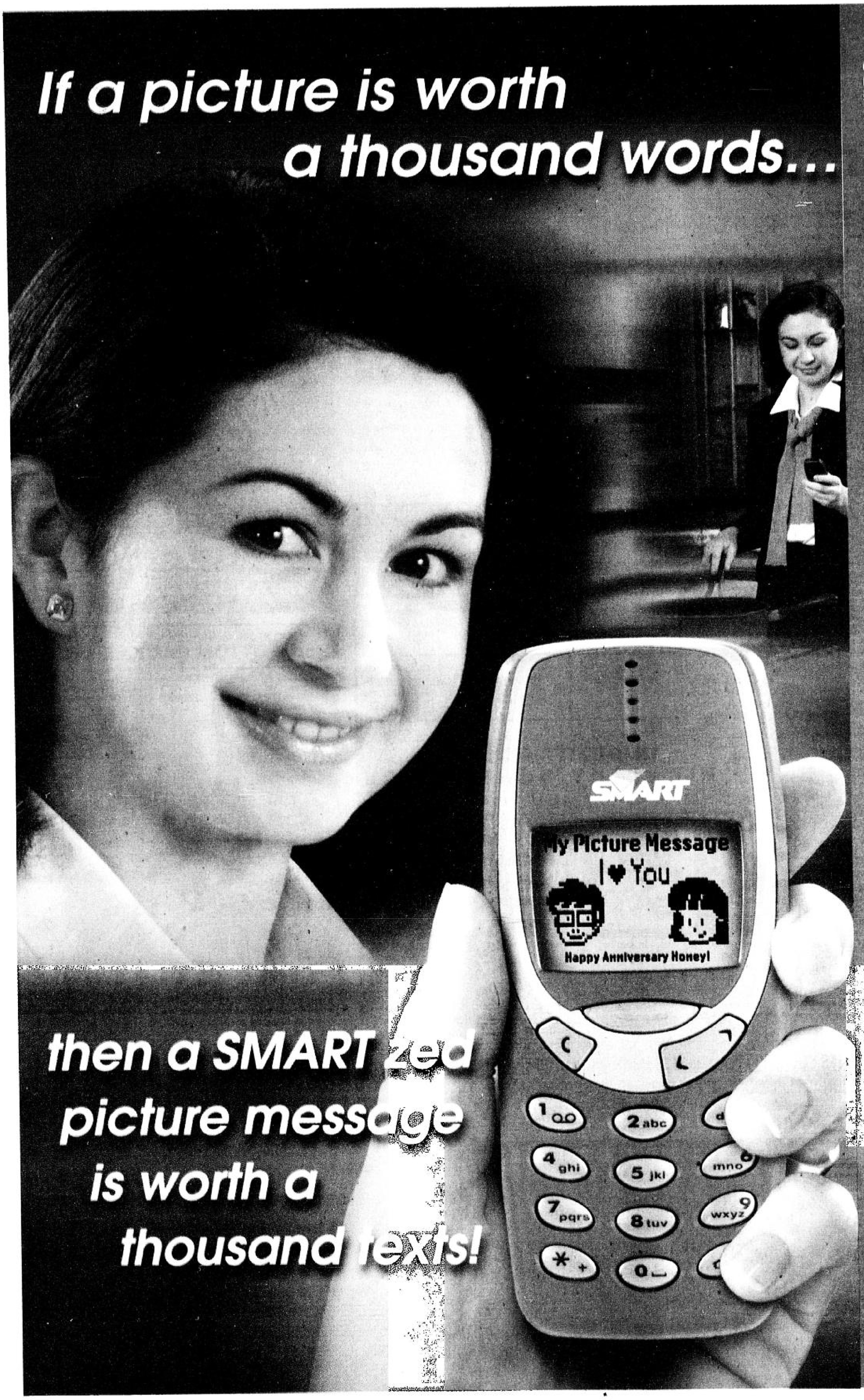

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BUSINESS

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Gov't drops plan to sell SMC stake

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PRIVATIZATION Council, formerly the inter-agency Committee on Privatization, yesterday gave in to the Sandiganbayan's wish and decided to drop indefinitely all plans to sell or securitize the $1 billion worth of San Miguel Corp. shares that remained sequestered.

Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla, a member of the council, said that as long as the anti-graft court has not made a final decision on the ownership of the shares equivalent to a 27-percent stake in SMC, then all plans were indefinitely deferred.

"It is back to square one for us after we decided to respect the position of the Sandiganbayan that the shares cannot be used until the ownership issue is resolved," Medalla said.

He said an auction of the shares or the planned $1-billion bond float secured by the SMC shares could be pursued by the government.

"As long as some sectors in the coconut industry are unable to accept the proposed structure, then it would be hard to go forward," the government official said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government had sequestered during the time of former President Corazon Aquino about 47 percent of San Miguel on charges that these were ill-gotten and were bought using P9.6 billion in coconut levy funds collected by Marcos associate Cojuangco from coconut farmers.

Of the 47 percent, 27 percent had been the subject of a compromise agreement between the farmers and Cojuangco's group.

The government had been banking that the compromise agreement would convince the Sandiganbayan to lift the sequestration.

But a multi-sectoral farmers group has already rejected the compromise and said it would seek a temporary restraining order to prevent the government from disposing of the shares.

"It turns out the EO (on the coconut levy) did not resolve it," Medalla quipped. An executive order was signed by President Estrada late last year to pave the way for a compromise agreement.

As this developed, the Department of Finance also postponed making any decision as to which of the five foreign investment banks would be chosen to become the government's financial adviser on the sale or securitization of the 27-percent SMC block.

The five banks chosen from an original list of 10 were Goldman Sachs, ING Barings, Morgan Stanley, Lehman Brothers and Credit Suisse First Boston.

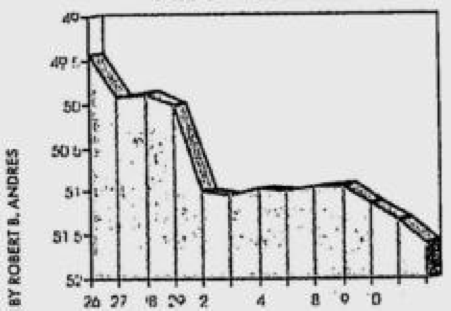
The five investment banks presented proposals that featured both an outright sale of the 27 percent as well as an attachment to a planned $1-billion government offering to be issued by the trust fund, Finance Undersecretary Joel Bañares said. The finance department was supposed to make the announcement this week.

The government wanted to float $1 billion worth of bonds that could be converted into shares corresponding to the 27-percent SMC stake upon maturity.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱51.59 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 12, 2001

¥118.16 = $1

The US dollar was trading at ¥118.16 as of 5 p.m., Jan. 12, 2001

GOLD:$264.20/264.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 12, 2001

STOCK MARKET

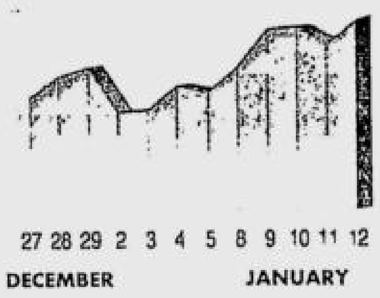
Stocks end higher

STOCKS closed higher yesterday supported by gains in key blue chips on the back of news that the central bank has again cut its overnight rates, traders said.

The 50 basis points cut, announced on Thursday, takes effect on Monday. The overnight borrowing rate would be lowered to 12.5 percent and the lending rate to 14.75 percent.

STOCKS/ B2

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Lopez group earmarks $30M for telecom venture

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

THE LOPEZ Group will invest about $20 million to $30 million for its newly formed call center unit called Customer Contact Center Inc. before the end of the year to take advantage of the increasing demand for outsourcing customer contact services.

The new unit, also called C3 (see-cubed), was an offshoot of Lopez-owned Bayan Telecommunications Inc.'s in-house call center services.

Karen V. Batungbacal, C3 chief executive officer, said the new unit would be formally separated from Bayantel soon and that the company would be funded by Benpres Holdings Corp. of the Lopezes.

The company is constructing a new 850-seat call center to be located at the Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis, Metro Manila, and would cater to the growing outsource business from North America, Europe and Asia.

A call center basically offers companies call-handling or customer contact services so that they could concentrate more on their core business. Instead of handling calls for inquiries or complaints themselves, these companies can hire the services of a call center to do that.

Call centers also handle inbound and outbound calls on sales, research and other customer transactions using phone, fax, e-mail or the Internet in general.

"There is great potential for this business. There are estimates that 70 percent of business is done by phone. In America alone (companies spend) $25 billion for such calls," Batungbacal said.

At present C3 has about five external customers and 500 seats for the new business. It expects to clinch more deals with companies located locally and abroad within the year.

A seat is basically a computer terminal or station used for call handling services.

According to Batungbacal, the country has a great advantage for this business over other Asian countries because of the literacy and educational level of Filipinos as well as the predominant use of English in the country.

"The Philippines' competitive advantage is its rich pool of English-speaking workforce, low operating cost, and the availability of skilled and educated individuals. C3 is supporting the government's effort to turn the Philippines into the call center hub of Asia," Batungbacal said.

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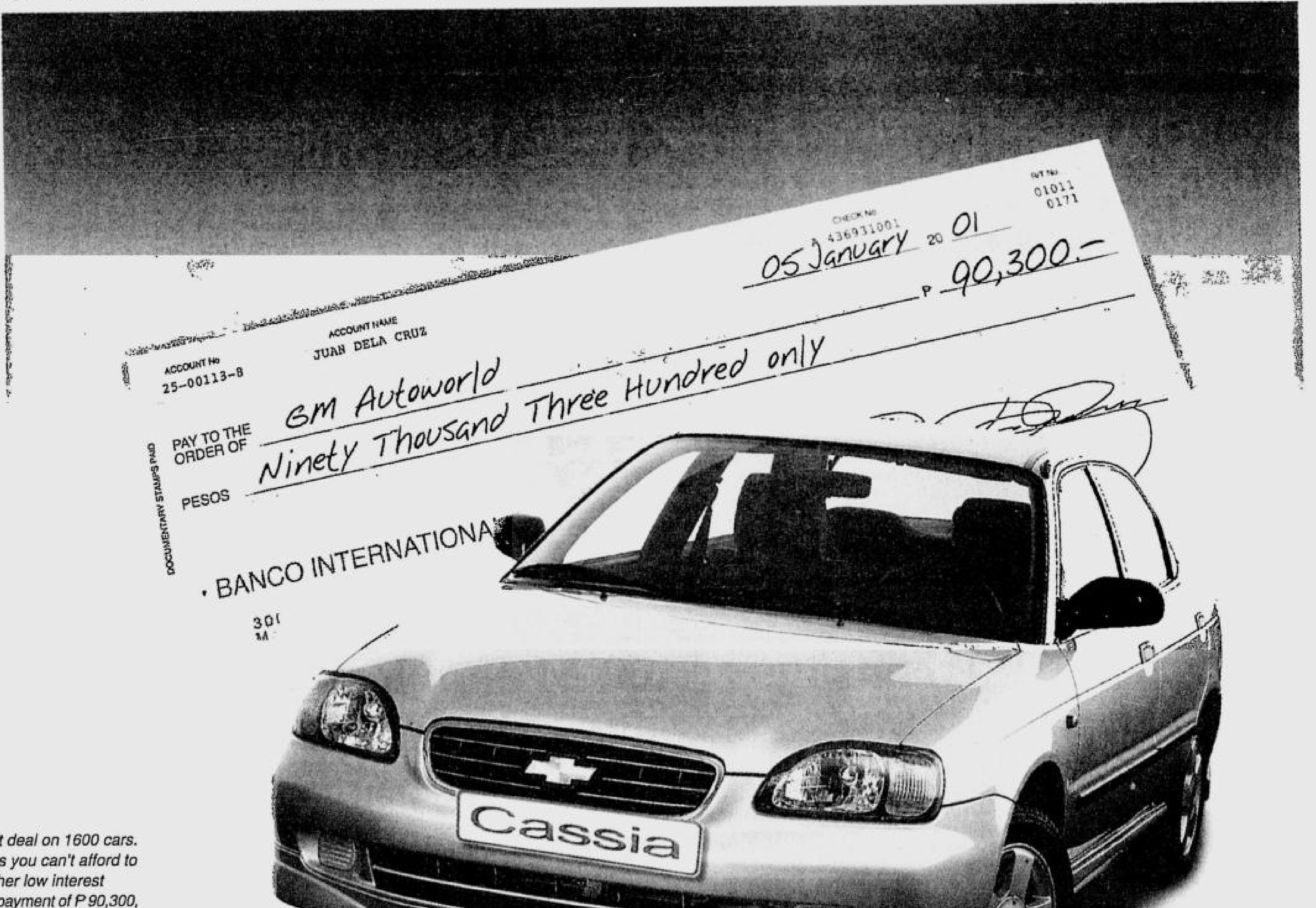

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120,400	40,616	28,332	22,945	16,685	13,610
180,600	35,117	24,462	19,819	14,412	11,756
240,800	30,100	20,592	16,694	12,139	9,902
310,000	25,083	16,722	13,568	9,866	8,048

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT IS only a big push for rural folks so the government tries hard to delay the "rural electrification program." Kilometric in name, the project is sadly short on results. The government could not even put up a single electric post—literally, I'm not kidding.

Still hanging up to this time is a supply contract for the electric posts. I'm not really sure how the government can bring electricity to the countryside without the use of posts. Maybe the government found a way to send electricity by mail. It's just a guess.

Anyway, bidding for the contract was done more than two years ago. Thanks to the bright board of the National Electrification Administration, or the NEA, the contract has yet to be awarded today. No post, as I said, no rural electricity!

To top it all, the government is pressed for time. The loan to pay for the posts is going to expire. Unlike diamonds, Edmund, loans are not forever. If the government doesn't use up the loan by this October, the loan disappears faster than Laarni. Oops!.

* * *

BECAUSE our government is always short of cash, it borrows from other countries. The government tries to get cheap, almost give-away loans called "official assistance." For the rural electrification, our government tapped the Japanese government for funding.

Still begging to be used by our government is some $40 million of that loan. Part of the imploring loan goes to the electric posts. Even if the contract is awarded today, it's too close a call. Posts are not delivered by mail.

I mean, ordering takes time. Delivery takes time. It's not as if you can only ring a bell and immediately the posts are there in your backyard. What's that—post no bell? With apologies of course to prosecutor Sergio Apostol for my diction.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the story of our impeachment-obsessed lives. Based on figures from the National Economic and Development Authority, or Neda, out of P7.3 billion in ready official loans last year, we used only P800 million. Wow!

Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla says our completion rate for projects comes out to an amazing NINE years. If indeed we decide what to do with Metro Manila's garbage today, we will still stink until 2010. It's not a very comforting thought.

* * *

RURAL electrification is something we decided to do many, many years ago. To stop rural folks from producing babies like they were poultry, we realized we had better make them watch television at night instead. Luckily, the Japanese were willing to help.

For that would make Japanese firms making television very happy, of course. To watch television, unfortunately, you must have electricity. You also need a lot of entertaining shows like the late night replay of the impeachment trial of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. He also produced babies like they were . . .

Anyway, it seemed only yesterday, but it was actually two years ago when NEA held a bidding for the supply of electric posts. The winner in the bidding was disqualified. As usual, the company simply faked documents here and there.

In the rebid, four companies were qualified and, in February last year, a company known as Nerwin Industries came up with the lowest bid of $11.7 million, which was about $2 million lower than the second lowest. The result was so clear, it took NEA to declare Nerwin the winner only about eight long months. *May* deadline *pa yon.*

* * *

AS EXPECTED, one losing bidder got sore at the lowest bidder. Backed up by its US principal, the local firm, Pacific Synergy, questioned the bid of Nerwin. Pacific Synergy claimed that Nerwin's bid was late by five minutes. Hmmm.

What Pacific Synergy wanted of NEA was, in effect, to spend some $2 million more instead of waiting for five freaking minutes. Government lawyers ruled it a crazy idea. Thus, the bidding committee asked the NEA board to give the contract to Nerwin.

Not so fast, though. Today, more than three months after that bidding committee's decision, the NEA board has yet to award the contract. No reason was ever given. Maybe it's pay back time for Nerwin for being late by five minutes. It must wait five years!

Some naughty NEA boys wanted to slice up the contract. Parts of it would go to the sore loser, Pacific Synergy. This is merely an agent of the American firm Tri-State Pole and Piling. Thus, we are using Japanese money to pay for American supply. Nice!

* * *

NOW the chair of NEA happens to be Energy Secretary Mario Tiaoqui, who was a high school classmate of Wrist Band. It's the same Tiaoqui who was castigated by Wrist Band on the geothermal issue between the government and another American firm.

My info is that even personnel of the US Embassy in Manila were open in their support for Pacific Synergy. They were even present during the bidding perhaps as cheering squad or something. Lately, their visits to Tiaoqui were not infrequent.

Just the other day, coincidentally, some big shot American executives were lecturing some big shot Filipino executives about the Philippines. I gathered that the Americans were, ahh, "disturbed" by what's happening in our country. Thanks, boss.

I could cry, frankly, whenever other people say they feel for me. But I wonder if that is true with those big shot American executives. From what I understand, US firms used to rake it in here but not anymore. Well, they can still twist some arms.

Malacañang defers signing of port privatization order

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has deferred the signing of a new executive order on the privatization of North Harbor until after all studies on the most feasible option in bidding out the country's busiest port are completed and the resettlement issue is resolved.

This was revealed by Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Donald Dee, who said there were still doubts on whether a multiple operator contract scheme was the best option for the development of North Harbor.

Dee said a study made by British consulting firm Halcrowe and Fox and commissioned by International Container Terminal Services Inc. chair Enrique Razon Jr. showed that a two-operator scheme was viable based on a high port-handling fee.

"This is unacceptable to us because the business sector, who are the users of the port, would have to bear the burden of high costs," Dee said.

He said it would be prudent to await the results of other pending studies by experts who would confirm or refute the Halcrowe and Fox report.

President Estrada was supposed to sign last week an executive order adopting a multiple contractor or anti-monopoly policy in the government's port privatization and modernization program wherever viable and a mandatory public bidding of all government port facilities and service contracts.

This order was supposed to revoke Executive Order 59, which mandated the negotiated bidding of the North Harbor contract to one operator.

Due to pressures from businessmen, the government agreed to bid out the contract in a fair and transparent manner and divide the port into two contracts.

Apart from the completion of feasibility studies, Dee said the government should resolve whether the government should share in the cost of relocating over 30,000 families in North Harbor.

He said the relocation cost would reach $187 million, almost half of the $400-million minimum capital investment for North Harbor.

He proposed that the government offer one of its properties as a relocation site to reduce costs.

PSE, BTr clear SDT listing

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange and the Bureau of Treasury have tied loose ends in the listing of small-denominated treasury bonds, paving the way for the inaugural trading of P30.35 billion worth of government securities on Monday.

In a memorandum yesterday, PSE president Ramon Garcia said the trading of small-denominated treasury bonds would adopt a "T+0"—immediate settlement—scheme. The stock exchange currently allows a "T+4"—four-day settlement—period.

"The listing and trading of small-denominated treasury bonds is an important step towards improving investors' awareness about the PSE and in increasing their participation in the securities market. This will also pave the way for the listing of other debt instruments in the exchange and will contribute to the development of the exchange-traded debt market," Garcia said.

Garcia also stressed the listing was in line with the PSE's corporate vision "to become a full-service exchange and to provide a balanced product mix for greater flexibility and resilience."

The PSE is set to be converted from a non-stock to a profit-oriented and stock organization by August this year in accordance with the Securities Regulation Code.

The BTr demanded that the PSE upgrade its system first to accommodate real-time trading and settlement before agreeing to finally start trading small-denominated treasury bonds.

Trading of these securities will be coursed through the modified PSE Maktrade system interconnected with the BTr's Registry of Scriptless Securities.

PCCI resumes role as lead advocate of business reforms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry has resumed its role as the business sector's leading advocate in the formulation and implementation of government policies less than three months after the country's biggest business group joined the chorus urging President Estrada to resign.

PCCI president Miguel Varela said "life must go on" for businessmen notwithstanding the outcome of Mr. Estrada's Senate corruption trial.

"Most businessmen realized that the country's economic problems would still be there no matter how the impeachment trial turns out. These problems have to be addressed soon to prevent businesses from downsizing or closing down," Varela said.

Officials of PCCI and foreign chambers in the country were present during the formal turnover of leadership of the Economic Coordinating Council from Mr. Estrada to Finance Secretary Jose Pardo.

"Most of us felt that this was a first step toward the right direction, but we have yet to see how this would help improve the country's situation," Varela said.

Pressing economic problems include the rising cost of credit, difficulty of small and medium enterprises in getting loans, tariff distortions and smuggling, high power costs, and inefficient infrastructure. "All these problems have been there even before the President was embroiled in the "jueteng" scandal. These problems will not go away automatically if a new president comes on board," Varela said.

In November last year, 10 of PCCI's 15 board members asked the President to resign to avoid a lengthy impeachment trial that they said would only exacerbate the country's economic problems. Thirteen representatives of 17 regional chambers supported this appeal.

With PCCI and other major business organizations seeking Mr Estrada's resignation, the government has gained little ground in pushing for policy reforms that may have helped businesses cope with the crisis.

Last week, top government officials discussed broad policies with representatives of San Miguel Corp. who had become virtual advocates of the business sector.

Varela said the past few weeks showed that the Constitution was still the best stabilizer of the economy and a source of confidence among investors.

He urged other business groups, specifically the Makati Business Club, to focus on the economy's problems instead of holding rallies that were only disrupting normal work schedules.

"What does (MBC executive director) Guillermo Luz hope to achieve by going to the streets and asking for the President to resign?" he asked.

BSP considers $400-M club loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

IMPROVING spreads on bonds and declining interest rates have encouraged the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to revisit its planned $400-million club loan in the first two months of the year.

"We will revisit the club loan and see if banks can give us a better rates this time around," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said at a news briefing yesterday. He said the central bank would invite more banks to join the pool of lenders it was tapping.

The BSP shelved last month a plan to tap the market for a $400-million loan to pay its maturing debts because of unfavorable rates.

Buenaventura told reporters spreads on bonds issued by emerging markets had improved in recent weeks. "With the lowering of US interest rates, we will see if the BSP could get a better offer," he said.

He said, however, that if rates would remain unfavorable, the central bank would have no choice but to draw on its $15 billion in international reserves to pay its obligations.

"If we don't get the loan, then we will use the GIR (gross international reserves)," he said.

Buenaventura said in a statement last week that the country's gross international reserves as of end-December stood at $15.02 billion.

This was a 3.66-percent increase from the level of $14.49 billion at the end of November.

Buenaventura had told reporters on Sunday that the end-2000 GIR level was $15.1 billion.

If the central bank decides to secure a club loan, the terms of these instruments will likely be between three and five years. A club loan is a form of borrowing where banks take an equal exposure.

The last time the BSP obtained a club loan was in 1998, when it borrowed $750 million from a group of banks.

Stocks end higher

(From page B1)

The renewed boost in equities came after profit taking on Thursday following a five-day run-up.

However, traders said further gains were hard to foresee as the central bank may not have much leeway to trim rates in the near term given some renewed peso weakness.

They added political concerns were likely to take center stage in the coming days with the ongoing impeachment trial of President Estrada.

"Day to day developments largely depend on the impeachment trial and I think the focus will move back onto politics," ATR Kim Eng research head Luz Lorenzo said.

The 33-share composite index closed up 25.76 points, or 1.7 percent at 1,541.65. Turnover rose to P798.27 million up from P609.94 million on Thursday.

ATR Kim Eng's Lorenzo said blue chips seen as safe havens amid a depressed market were again the favorites led by index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which rose P10 to P895.

A media report that PLDT may come in to partner fixed line rival Bayan Telecommunications Inc and help it restructure its debts helped underpin PLDT's gains.

There was also talk that PLDT's cable television unit Home Cable could team up in a joint venture with the Lopez group's Sky Cable TV unit.

Lorenzo said there was continued signs of light buying interest by some offshore investors, a trend that has been evident since the start of the year.

"Since the start of the year, every day except yesterday there has been net foreign buying," Lorenzo said, citing Philippine Stock Exchange figures.

Reuters

DISCLOSURES

COPIES of documents pertaining to the fulfillment of the suspensive conditions of the share purchase agreement between **RCBC Capital Corp.** and **Equitable PCI Bank Inc.** for the purchase by RCBC Capital of 226,460,000 common shares of **Bankard Inc.** are available at the PSE Center and PSE-Plaza libraries.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has clarified that only exploratory talks are being conducted between **Mediaquest Holdings Inc.** and the **Lopez Group of Companies** about potential business collaboration regarding their cable television businesses, Lopez's SkyCable and Mediaquest's Home Cable.

* * *

THE LISTING of 5,775,000 common shares of **Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.** is set for Monday. This covers the stock option under the company's 16th stock option award. *Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 12, 2000)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.50	59.5	58.5	59.5	254,800
China Banking Corp.	730.0	730	730	730	2,000
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20.00	20	18	18	11,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.50	56	54.5	56	30,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	187.0	192	186	191	98,650
Philippine National Bank	37.00	38	36.5	38	56,400
Rizal Comm'l Bkg. Corp. "A"	21.00	21	21	21	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.00	35	34	35	41,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.60	1.68	1.6	1.68	58,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1255	1245	1245	5,770
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1110	1110	1075	1075	14,900
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	50.00	50.5	50	50	8,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.4600	.52	.46	.52	2,880,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0450	.046	.045	.046	1,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.4500	.45	.45	.45	100,000
Piltel	.5800	.6	.56	.6	510,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	880.0	900	880	895	292,490
Ivantage Corp.	.8700	.87	.87	.87	10,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0350	.035	.034	.035	14,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	48.50	49	48.5	48.5	17,800
Manila Electric Co. "B"	54.50	54.5	53.5	54.5	1,962,200
Petron Corp.	1.30	1.3	1:26	1.3	5,336,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9900	1	.99	1	330,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l SV	.7900	.8	.79	.8	490,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	.5700	.6	.57	.6	1,080,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	.1400	.14	.14	.14	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc	.3700	.37	.37	.37	190,000
Union Cement Corp.	.6000	.6	.6	.6	320,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.30	2.4	2.3	2.4	53,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.00	10.25	10	10.25	719,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.00	32.5	32	32.5	43,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.62	11,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	49.50	50	49.5	50	27,400
San Miguel Corp. "B"	56.00	57.5	56	57.5	386,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.40	7.7	7.4	7.7	1,878,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	.2800	.28	.28	.28	50,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	3,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.7700	.77	.77	.77	70,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	5,000
Bacnotan Cons. Indus. Inc.	12.00	12	12	12	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.35	3.5	3.35	3.45	10,172,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	.1600	.16	.16	.16	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.2700	.27	.27	.27	1,180,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.2200	.22	.22	.22	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.2900	.33	.29	.32	4,390,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	.7400	.78	.74	.78	500,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	21.50	21.75	21.5	21.75	72,000
Global Equities Inc.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	.2200	.22	.22	.22	150,000
Ionics Inc.	15.00	15.5	15	15.5	2,542,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.10	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,200,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	20,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings "B"	1.04	1.2	1.04	1.2	24,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "A"	.0150	.015	.015	.015	400,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "B"	.0160	.016	.016	.016	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	.7900	.8	.79	.8	6,500,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.4900	.49	.49	.49	1,210,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.6000	.6	.59	.6	9,510,000
Solid Group Inc.	.4800	.49	.48	.49	6,520,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	.3300	.33	.31	.32	6,840,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	.5400	54	.54	.54	90,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.80	4.8	4.8	4.8	1,000
Music Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	376,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1100	.115	.11	.115	800,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	.8600	.86	.86	.86	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc	7.70	7.8	7.6	7.8	392,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6900	7	.69	7	1,010,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.6900	.71	.63	.67	12,520,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp	4000	.4	.4	.4	220,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	50.50	51	50.5	51	432,800
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	2,000,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.90	2.9	2.85	2.9	66,000
Jollibee Warrants	9.80	9.8	9.7	9.8	944,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0026	.0026	.0026	.0026	51,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.70	5.9	5.6	5.8	7,041,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.3500	.36	.32	.32	130,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	.4500	.45	.45	.45	120,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.2100	.215	.21	.215	2,830,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.3900	.39	.39	.39	450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.3500	.36	.35	.35	12,830,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.52	1.42	1.52	10,188,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1.04	180,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.3600	.37	.36	.37	490,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.00	6.1	6	6.1	16,793,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.0900	.09	.085	.09	1,100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	.3000	.37	.3	.37	220,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	.0050	.005	.005	.005	12,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0140	.014	.014	.014	300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B"	.1950	.195	.195	.195	1,460,000
Manila Mining Corp. "A"	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	11,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	.0060	.006	.006	.006	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0038	.0038	.0038	.0038	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. "A"	.2450	.245	.245	.245	1,560,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2400	.24	.23	.23	1,750,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0042	.0042	.0042	.0042	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. "A"	.3000	.3	.3	.3	10,000
Pacifica	.0150	.015	.015	.015	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	1900	.19	.185	.19	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	579,220	64,266,150.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	154,488,790	569,366,575.00
PRO	52,372,000	163,011,740.00
Mining	51,070,000	1,338,500.00
OIL	4,130,000	53,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	262,640,010	798,036,265.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	560.33	UP5.74
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,158.84	UP32.36
PRO	538.80	UP14.59
Mining	1,212.40	DOWN 8.47
OIL	1.76	UP0.03
All Shares Index	763.86	UP3.28
Composite	1,541.65	UP25.76

NO. OF ADVANCES: 50; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 2,745

CURRENCIES

Jan. 12, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.048878	1.000000	51.3250
Japan	Yen	0.008913	0.008498	0.4362
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572687	1.499400	76.9567
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.134479	0.128212	6.5805
Switzerland	Franc	0.650749	0.620424	31.8433
Canada	Dollar	0.702154	0.669434	34.3587
Singapore	Dollar	0.604645	0.576469	29.5873
Australia	Dollar	0.584854	0.557600	28.6188
Bahrain	Dinar	2.782317	2.652661	136.1478
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.279708	0.266674	13.6870
Brunei	Dollar	0.603984	0.575838	29.5549
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000104	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024113	0.022989	1.1799
UAE	Dirham	0.285603	0.272294	13.9755
Korea	Won	0.000821	0.000783	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.953400	48.9333
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.487466	25.0192
France	Franc	0.152450	0.145345	7.4598
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.432634	22.2049
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.069286	3.5561
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023634	1.2130
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000492	0.0253
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.160350	8.2300
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004756	0.2441
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00573	0.2941
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023634	1.2130
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.210568	62.1324

HIGHER DEMAND

Sugar prices seen up 20% in next 6 months

SYDNEY—Sugar prices may rise by as much as 20 percent in the next six months as Russia and China increase imports while supply from the top two exporters, Brazil and Australia, falls, traders say.

Russia, the world's biggest buyer, may purchase more sugar this year, traders say, pointing to interest in the government's 2001 import licenses auctioned late last year. China may also buy more sugar as domestic production falls short of demand for the second year in a row.

"Russian importers have already reportedly paid $300 million just for the import licenses," Michael McDougall, a sugar futures broker at Fimat Futures USA in New York, said. "There seems to be sustained demand from Russia at the moment. There is also an expectation China will increase demand as domestic supplies fall short their needs."

Higher prices for the sweetener will help companies such as CSR Ltd., Australia's biggest sugar refiner. The Sydney-based company's earnings from its sugar unit fell 36 percent to A$29 million in the six months ended Sept. 30 as poor weather delayed planting and the Australian industry forward sold its sugar before prices rose last year.

The rise would not have an immediate effect on users, such as Cadbury Schweppes Plc, which uses sugar in its soft drinks and foods, said Daryl Henry, managing director of Cadbury's Australian Unit. Their business, one of Australia's biggest domestic sugar users, buys its sugar up to 12 months in advance.

"It's one of the many commodities that we factor in" when pricing products and deciding on production levels, he said.

Sugar prices surged 66 percent last year after rain and drought damaged crops in Brazil and Australia, the biggest overseas sellers.

Drought cut Brazil's sugar production 23 percent from the previous year to 15.4 million metric tons, according to the US Department of Agriculture. In Australia, floods and sugar cane disease in Queensland, the main sugar producing state, pulled 2000 output down to an eight-year low of 3.8 million metric tons, Queensland Sugar Ltd. said.

Raw sugar for March delivery fell 0.29 percent to 10.26 cents a pound on the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange in New York Thursday. In the next six months, the contract might rise as high as 12 cents a pound, or about 20 percent, said McDougall. That would be its highest price in almost three years.

"I expect an upturn from the current prices in the next three to six months because supplies are still tight after the lousy year both in Australia and Brazil," said Ian McMaster, chief executive of CSR Ltd.'s sugar unit. Sydney-based CSR is Australia's biggest sugar miller.

"Farmers are feeling the pinch, which means they'll have less money to spend in 2001 on crop inputs, so I doubt production will be back to 1998 levels," said McMaster.

McMaster also expects sugar prices to rise in the next few months on the back of demand from Russia.

The Russian import licenses allow 3.65 million metric tons of raw sugar to be imported into Russia at a 5-percent tariff rather than the 30-percent rate for non-licensed imports. *Bloomberg*

Japan plays down stock, yen decline

TOKYO—Admitting to concern that Japan's poor economic prospects were depressing the stock market, ministers yesterday gave the green light to a further decline in the yen in a bid to fuel export-generated growth.

With interest rates in Japan already close to zero and a huge budget deficit that was still rising fast, economists said currency depreciation was one of the few economic-stimulus tools left in the government's locker.

"Slight movements should not be a cause of concern for me," Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said at a news conference when asked about the yen's decline to a 17-month low on Friday of 118.05 yen per dollar.

The Japanese currency also fell to a 14-month low against the euro, the single currency used by 12 European Union countries.

Other senior government officials also took a relaxed view of the decline in the yen, which would make Japanese goods more competitive abroad.

Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma said a further weakness in the currency might warrant action but its recent trend was not yet a cause for concern as Japan's economic fundamentals had not changed.

Those fundamentals point to a resumption of sub-par activity—the norm for the past decade—after a burst of growth on the back of exports and investment in information technology petered out in mid-year.

A more solid recovery has failed to take hold because personal consumption, which accounts for 60 percent of the economy, remains stagnant.

But Miyazawa said he was optimistic that the corporate sector would usher in stronger growth. "The Japanese economy will improve from now on," he said.

The visiting managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Horst Koehler, also sounded a positive note.

"In a time of transition, there may be some pain involved but there is no need to be pessimistic about the future," a Finance Ministry official quoted Koehler as telling Miyazawa ahead of a weekend meeting of Asian and European finance ministers in Kobe.

Pessimism about the Japanese economy has been weighing heavily on Japanese shares, which have also been hit by selling by banks and their corporate customers of equity stakes they have long held in each to cement their business ties.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei share average hit a 27-month low on Thursday, although yesterday it staged a modest recovery to stand 1.09 percent higher near the close at 13,344.46.

Falling share prices depress consumer confidence and are especially harmful to Japan's banks, which rely heavily on gains from stock sales to write off sour loans:

Now, instead of gains, many face the prospect of losses that could wreak havoc on their fragile balance sheets when they close their books at the end of the financial year on March 31.

One bank analyst, James Fiorillo of ING Barings, said there was now a 75-percent chance that the government would establish a scheme to help banks deal with huge stock losses and introduce support measures for some of the weakest banks.

"In a worst-case scenario, some banks could even find themselves with enough of a capital shortfall to warrant another government rescue," Fiorillo said in a note to clients. He said it was clear an earlier bailout in 1999 had been insufficient. *Reuters*

White House rejects recession fears

WASHINGTON—President Bill Clinton used his final economic report to congratulate himself for pursuing sound policies that helped create the best economic conditions in a generation. The report Friday warned against excessive tax cuts that could jeopardize the gains.

"I am pleased to report that the American economy today is strong," Clinton said.

"We are enjoying the longest economic expansion ever recorded, with more than 22 million jobs created since 1993, the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years," Clinton said. "This economic expansion has not only been unusually long but also broad and deep."

The report contained the administration's final economic forecast: The economy will continue growing in 2001 but at a slower rate that will keep inflation under control.

Since November, however, private economists have dramatically cut their growth forecasts for 2001 to reflect the steep drop in economic activity.

Some private analysts have warned of a growing risk of recession, a concern echoed by President-elect George W. Bush, who has urged Congress to move quickly to combat the weakness by passing his $1.3-trillion tax cut.

The Clinton administration's official forecast calls for a growth rate of 3.2 percent in 2001 compared with 4.1 percent for 2000 when measured from the fourth quarter to the fourth quarter of each year.

Martin Baily, chair of the president's three-member Council of Economic Advisers, said if the administration were to update its November forecast, it probably would reduce the 2001 growth estimate by one-half percentage point to 2.7 percent. That would put the forecast in line with the latest consensus one from Blue Chip Economic Indicators, which surveys around 50 private forecasters each month.

Baily said there was no reason to believe the economy was slipping into a recession even with the major and sharp slowdown in economic activity in the past few months.

He noted that the latest unemployment report showed that while job growth was now at the slowest pace in eight years, the jobless rate at 4 percent remained near a 30-year low.

"We are optimistic about the economy," Baily told reporters at a briefing Thursday. "We think the fundamentals are strong and we are not going into a recession."

Baily said the economic report made the case that much of the prosperity during Clinton's eight years in office had been an outgrowth of fiscal discipline imposed by the administration, which turned record budget deficits into record budget surpluses.

He said this had helped to lower interest rates for American businesses and sparked a surge in business investment that helped to double the annual increase in productivity, which is the output per hour of work.

"This is not a time to abandon fiscal discipline in favor of large tax cuts," Baily said.

He said the proper level for tax cuts to stimulate a sluggish economy was close to the 10-year, $500-billion proposal Clinton made last year that Congress rejected. *AP*

America Online seals $124-B Time purchase

NEW YORK—America Online Inc., a 16-year-old Internet company, has completed its purchase of Time Warner Inc. for $124 billion, taking over the owner of one of Hollywood's oldest movie studios, a publishing and music empire, and the No. 2 US cable-TV operator.

Shareholders of Time Warner, the world's biggest media company, will get 1.5 shares of the new entity, AOL Time Warner, for each of their shares. America Online shareholders will get one share of AOL Time Warner for each of theirs and will own about 55 percent of the combined company.

America Online wanted Time Warner's cable lines to deliver high-speed Internet service as well as content such as the CNN network and People and Time magazines. The bid lost more than a third of its value since it was announced last year on Jan. 10, before Internet stocks fell out of favor. Investors and analysts worry that the combined company may miss forecasts this year.

"Since we're in what is a pretty drastically slowing economy, you may think the merger will get off to a rocky start," said Mark Cavallone, an analyst at Friends Ivory and Sime, which owns America Online shares. "I wouldn't be surprised if they set the bar low for the first year" following the purchase.

Time Warner said last month that its fourth-quarter results would be lower than expected.

When the acquisition was announced last year, many Internet stocks were near all-time highs as investors snapped up shares of America Online, Yahoo! Inc. and others on expectations that online businesses would see fast revenue growth.

That outlook has dimmed in the past year as online advertising slowed along with the US economy. Yahoo, the world's most-used Internet search service, said this week that its first-quarter revenue would be virtually unchanged after sales rose 53 percent, 90 percent, 110 percent and 120 percent in the past four quarters.

America Online and Time Warner said they stood by their estimates for 2001 made when the transaction was announced. AOL Time Warner would have $40 billion in sales and $11 billion in cash flow next year, the companies said. The cash flow—or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization—reflects about $1 billion in cost savings and extra revenue from "synergies."

America Online generated about a third of its revenue from advertising while most of the balance came from the $21.95 monthly fee that it charged most of its subscribers, who now number more than 26 million.

Investors are increasingly concerned about Internet advertising because many Web companies, which have been the biggest online marketers, have gone out of business this year. America Online has said its advertising sales are growing and it's not seeing the same slowing as other online businesses.

Still, America Online reported an advertising backlog for the quarter ended Sept. 30 that was unchanged from the previous period. That worried some investors. The backlog, which represents revenue pledged by advertisers though not yet recorded, is viewed as an indicator of how strong growth will be. *Bloomberg*

Levi's upbeat despite sales drop

SAN FRANCISCO—Levi Strauss & Co. said Wednesday fourth quarter results showed that a three-year effort to turn around America's oldest clothing retailer was working.

The privately held firm said the 8.5-percent decline in fourth quarter sales to $1.29 billion from $1.41 billion a year earlier was the smallest quarterly decline in the past year and showed its effort to re-build its faded image was running ahead of expectations.

"The Levi brand is much healthier than it was a year ago," Levi president and chief executive officer Philip Marineau told Reuters in an interview. "We've narrowed the sales decline, which is in a position to stabilize next year and to grow after that."

Net income fell to $75.4 million for the quarter ended Nov. 26, from $157 million a year earlier while gross margins rose to 43 percent from 37.4 percent, the company said.

Earnings before depreciation, amortization, restructuring charges and a reversal of charges for a long-term incentive program rose to $152.4 million from $102.9 million.

"Our goal this past year was to deliver strong financial performance and we succeeded beyond our expectations," said Marineau, a former PepsiCo Inc. executive known as a savvy brand builder.

Harry Bernard, president of marketing firm Colton Bernard Inc., said the smaller sales decline in the fourth quarter was evidence the apparel maker was headed in the right direction. *Reuters*

Equitablė PCI BANK

INVITATION TO BID

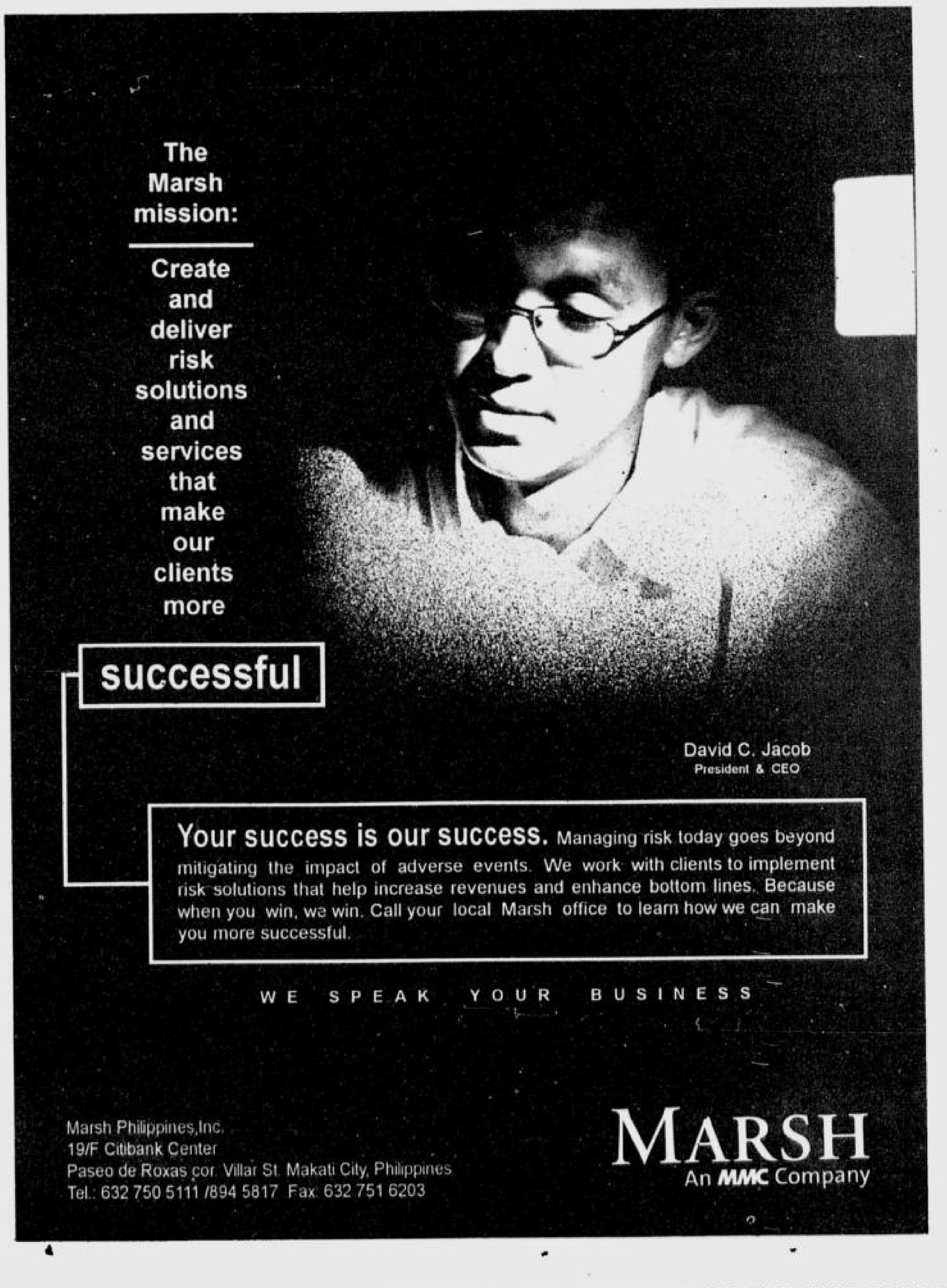
The ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION of Equitable PCIBank is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids, in cash and on "as-is-where-is" basis, the following real estate properties:

TCT NO./AREA (in sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 247229/280 m2/comm'l. vacant lot	Lot 7, Sub-blk. 11, Pres. Quirino cor. Leveriza, Malate, Manila	P 9,800,000
2) 39549-57/1,469.83 m2/res./condo	Sta. Ana Villas, #2215 Pedro Gil., Sta. Ana, Manila	4,545,800 to 4,595,920
3) 68969/61.62 m2/res. condo	3/F Unit 316, Cityland Condominium 8-Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	2,156,700
4) 351526/222 m2/res. w/ impvt.	#6 Riverside St. cor. St. Mary Ave., Provident Vil., Bgy. J. dela Peña, Marikina City	3,462,000
5) 9919-R/287 m2/res. w/ impvts.	288 Santolan Road, West Crame, San Juan, Metro Manila	8,994,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) 484399-R/450 m2/comm'l. w/ impvts.	Lazatin Blvd., Villa Victoria Subd., San Juan, San Fernando, Pampanga	2,213,300
2) 119154-55/3,464 m2/comm'l. w/ impvts.	Regidor & Lakandula Sts., Bo. Binitayan, Daraga, Albay	22,958,650
3) 49738/6,591 m2/comm'l./ind'l. w/ impvts.	National Road, Bgy. Rawis, Legaspi City	12,295,000
4) 49737/3,205 m2/comm'l. w/ impvts.	Corner Lakandula Drive and Barriada Road, Gogon, Legaspi City	6,260,000
5) 49739-41/3,346 m2/ind'l. w/ impvts.	Aguinaldo St., Baybay Centro, Port Dist., Legaspi City	16,275,125
6) 324633-45/4,042 m2/13 res. lots	Robinsons Highland Subd., (formerly Panorama Homes Subd.) Bo. Buhangin, Davao City	6,063,000
7) T-25112/9,228 m2/res. vacant lot w/ fence & gate	Along Banadero National Highway, Ozamiz City	7,382,400
III. CHATTELS		
Surface Grinders, EDM CNC Machine, Horizontal Band Saw, Drill Grinder, Milling Machine, Grinding Machines, Optical Measurement Inspection System, Air Compressor, Wire Cut CNC Machine	Equitable PCI Bank, EPZA Branch, Rosario, Cavite	9,164,000

Complete description/specifications of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties & Chattels	MS. BERNIE PEÑAFIEL/AVP/LUCHIE M. CASTILLO/AO/MAR M. RIPA/AO/GISELLE P. ESPIRITU/AO/KAREN U. RESARI/AO/TON-TON P. MALABUYO/AO -Tel. Nos. 817-2822/894-1910/840-7644/840-7920

Bidding will be held on Jan. 30, 2001 at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in the sealed bid. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE

BULLETIN OF VACANT REGULAR POSITIONS
(In compliance with RA 7041)

(1) Driver I - SG-3; Item No. OSEC-DECSB-DRV1-29-1998. At least High School Graduate; with relevant experience and a Driver's License

Qualified applicants must send their resumé, transcript of records, recent ID picture and other credentials to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
DECS-EDPITAF
Dorm D, DECS Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Previous applicants need not apply

Deadline for submission of application is on January 22, 2001

CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

To be conducted by The Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, (REBAP) Inc

Venue	Manila Galeria Suites
Date	January 20 & 27, 2001
Time	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
For Information	3732280-81

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1965 PIPER SUPERCUB PA 18-150
EXCELLENT CONDITION
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CALL 637-9041 / 638-2652
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Elliptical Road, Quezon City

DAR-Asian Development Bank
AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES PROJECT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The DAR-ADB ARCP is a national-level Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) project addressing rural poverty implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform supported by the Asian Development Bank. The Central Project Management Office (CPMO) to be located at the Ground Floor, FAPsO Building, DAR Central Office is pleased to announce the following vacancy:

TRAINING SPECIALIST

The Training Specialist will facilitate implementation of appropriate capability building/training interventions that focus on enhancing current competencies of major project implementing agents as well as agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs). S/he shall be based at the Community Development Unit of the CPMO and shall maintain coordination with other ARCP Specialists.

The position is open to Trainers/Educators with at least 5 years experience in popular education, relevant experience in organizational development processes and willing to spend at least 30% of her/his time in the ARCs.

Functions include validation of training needs of ARBOs, ARBs, local DAR and LGU staff, set guidelines and standards for training designs conducted/supported by the Project, develop system for monitoring and evaluation of the Project's training activities, assist CPMO and APO units in the appropriate methodologies and pedagogy of training designs and coordinate modularization of technologies/approaches developed by the Project.

All applications should be addressed to:

ANTOINETTE RAQUIZA
Assistant Secretary for Support Services and Head, National Selection Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Quezon City

Attention: HERMAN Z. ONGKIKO
DAR-ADB ARCP
Central Project Management Office
2/F, Castro Bldg., 58 Timog Avenue
Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City

Application Requirements: (5 copies each)

a. Application Letter
b. Curriculum Vitaé
c. Transcript of Records
d. Personal Data Sheet with latest 2x2 photo

Terms of Reference may be obtained at the present Central Project Management Office, 2nd Floor, Castro Building, 58 Timog Avenue, Brgy Laging Handa, Quezon City.

Applications should be received on or before January 19, 2001.

(PDI – Jan. 13 & 14, 2001)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Expanding companies is looking for the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- College graduate
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- 2 years experience in handling food products
- good moral character
- Resident of Taytay, Cainta or nearby area

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- College level with knowledge in Bookkeeping
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Computer literate preferably EXCEL
- Good moral character
- Resident of Taytay, Cainta or nearby area

Interested parties, kindly call 6607004/6608175

An International Bank

is searching for a

RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

The candidate must have a university/college degree with at least three (3) years experience from a reputable bank as a Corporate Account Officer with proven marketing skills and competence in financial analysis

The candidate must have a pleasing personality, first class English skills and those with multi lingual and international trade capability having a definite advantage.

Reply in confidence with your resumés and references to

P.O. Box 2265 MCPO
1262 Makati City, Philippines

PUYAT SPORTS

needs an

HRD MANAGER

Less than 45 years old, now an Asst. HRD Manager or performs the duties of said position.
Must be highly capable as trainor and administrator.

Send applications w/ picture, stating salary desired & bio-data to:
The Executive Vice-President, Puyat Sports
2nd Floor, Anson Arcade II Building,
A. Arnaiz Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Applications and interviews will be regarded as confidential.

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L300 Van 5109530/8533103

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•Ofc Staff 9134470 Hazz

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Sales Rep. 10K 723-2737

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
602 JP Rizal St.
Makati City will hold an Auction Sale on
• JANUARY 20. 2001 •
at 9:00 AM
including all items pawned up to July & August 2000
V.Zamora Jr Lic. Auctioneer

C.Y.Lopez Pawnshop, Inc.
Real St., Almanza Uno
Las Pinas City will hold an AUCTION SALE on
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RTW P28 up Call 723-2959

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given MMC/ Medical Doctors Inc. Capital Stock Cert. #1168 dated Dec. 29, 1980, 150 shrs. under the name of Dr. Vermen M. Verallo-MD. If not contested new cert. will be issued. (PDI. Dec 30,2000, Jan. 6 & 13,2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Sex symbols

Q. How did ♀ become the symbol for woman, and ♂ for man?

A. ♀ is the ancient symbol of Venus, the Roman goddess of love and beauty, while ♂ is the symbol of Mars, the Roman god of war—the two deities being the epitomes of feminity and masculinity. The use of these symbols in botany and zoology to denote female and male was originated by the Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus, who devised the first system for naming plants and animals using Latin words (*Homo sapiens*, for example), in the mid-18th century. Venus' original symbol (the crossbar was added in the early 16th century to make it less pagan) is thought to represent either a necklace or a mirror. In the case of Mars, the circle represents his shield, and the arrow, his spear.

For the Record. Men generally have more muscle and less fat than women. Testosterone, the main male sex hormone, is responsible for the broad shoulders and muscular development of men. Estrogens, the main female sex hormone, are responsible for the broad hips and fat deposits of women. Because fat is lighter than water or muscle, it's a fact that in a swimming pool, women are likely to float higher than men.

Not-So-Famous First. The world's first woman editor of a newspaper was 29-year-old Anna Maria Smith, who became editor and publisher of the weekly *Reading Mercury* in Reading, Berkshire, England, with the issue of January 25, 1762. The first to edit a daily paper was 27-year-old Cornelia W. Walter, who took up the editorship of the *Boston Transcript* on the death of its founding editor, her brother, in 1842.

WORD WATCH

Balita : ultimately from the Sanskrit *berita*, 'learning.'

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

1898 - 1998
100
KALAYAAN

INVITATION TO BID

Date: January 13, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. RI WS 00 351 05SOG-SL for **the Construction of Pandan Water Supply System** located at Brgy. Pandan, Sogod, Southern Leyte. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Sogod and implementing partner of the DAR for the ARCDP-WB invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project: Construction of One (1) unit water system

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
I	Installation of Water Pipeline	6,594.00 ln.m.
II	Construction of Intake & Distribution Tank	52.00 cu.m.
III	Installation of Communal Faucets	19.00 units

Bid Security : P52,000.00
Bid Closing Date : February 15, 2001, 10:00 AM
Sub Project Duration : 110 C.D.

Minimum Equipment's Required
One Bagger Concrete Mixer, Pipe Threader, Stake Truck

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **January 15, 2001**, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand five hundred pesos only (P2,500.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **January 24, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Sogod, Southern Leyte province on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on **February 15, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) HON. EDMUNDO R. VILLA, M.D.
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF HINUNANGAN
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

1898 - 1998
100
KALAYAAN

INVITATION TO BID

Date: January 13, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. RI RC 99235 01 HIN-SL for **the Construction of Sto. Niño-So. Masaymon Road** located at Brgy. Sto. Niño, Hinunangan, Southern Leyte. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Hinunangan and implementing partner of the DAR for the ARCDP-WB invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project: Construction of 2.66 kms Road

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
100	Clearing and Grubbing	15,960.00 sq.m.
102	Roadway and Drainage Excavation	120,264.50 cu.m.
105	Sub-grade preparation	15,960.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,596.00 cu.m.
500	R.C. Pipe Culverts (910mmdia.)	138.00 ln.m.
504	Grouted Riprap	72.00 cu.m.

Bid Security : P103,000.00
Bid Closing Date : February 15, 2001, 10:00 AM
Sub Project Duration : 120 C.D.

Minimum Equipment's Required
Bulldozer, Payloader, Dump trucks, Road Grader,
Road Roller (min. 9 ton), Water truck

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **January 15, 2001**, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand five hundred pesos only (P2,500.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **January 25, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Hinunangan, Southern, Leyte province on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on **February 15, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) HON. ROBERTO M. LAGUMBAY, M.D.
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

MCNAP, Pampers to hold free workshops for nannies

HERE'S a rare opportunity for mothers to give their children's yayas proper training on childcare. The Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines (MCNAP), in close collaboration with Pampers, will conduct free half-day seminars developed specially for nannies and caregivers of children. The MCNAP Nanny Workshops will be held on Jan. 21 and Feb. 4 at the SM Megatrade Hall Function Rooms from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The nanny workshop is a public service effort of Pampers and MCNAP, long time partners in promoting high quality maternal and childcare in the country. Through these nanny workshops, they will help educate nannies on proper child rearing. This effort is in recognition of the growing importance of nannies in ensuring proper mental, physical and emotional development of the children they care for.

Each half-day workshop promises to be a highly educational and interesting event. MCNAP officers will conduct various presentations on topics like Developmental Milestones in the Child's First Six Years, Newborn Nanny Basics, What *Yaya* Should Know About Common Childhood Illness, The Rights of a Child, and The Qualities of a Good *Yaya*.

Interested mothers should pre-register their children's *yayas* for either workshop date on or before Jan. 18. Registration forms are available through print ads or leaflets distributed in selected SM malls and villages. Accomplished forms may be faxed to 810-9260 or hand carried to Ace Saatchi and Saatchi PR department, 10/F Feliza Bldg., 108 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. No registration fee or proof of purchase is required. Participants will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Only the first registrants for each scheduled workshop will be accommodated. Inquiries may be made by calling at 814-2113 or 814-2136

'LITTLE SWISS VILLAGE' AMUSES KIDS

The newly renovated Farmers Plaza is home to the "Little Swiss Village" exhibit. It features lighted miniature model houses set amid a typical Swiss village in winter. Children and their parents continue to be amazed with the realistic interpretation of this icy tableau. The "Little Swiss Village" is located at the 2/F Concourse Lobby of the Farmers Plaza and will run until Jan. 15, 2001.

Araneta Center cinemas make movie lovers sure winners

FOR movie enthusiasts and shopping patrons, Araneta Center has launched a promo dubbed "Manood at Manalo... Siguradong Walang Talo."

The promo started Nov. 15, 2000 and will run up to May 15, 2001. Moviegoers who watch any movie of their choice at any Ali Mall Cineplex or Farmers Plaza cinemas are entitled to join the promo.

But unlike any other promo, "Manood at Manalo..." is a sure-win promo. All moviegoers will be entitled to one scratch card which will be given upon purchase of a movie ticket. All scratch cards are winning cards.

Prizes include appliances from Imarflex, gift certificates, movie passes, Fiesta Carnival passes, Revicon multivitamins, Pizza Hut or Chowking food items, among others. Other participating sponsors are Musikland, Viva Music Group, 93.9 KCFM, Hello Chocolate-Coated Wafer, Cali Shandy, the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) and Jollibee.

Prizes may be claimed daily from 12 noon to 8 p.m. at the Ali Mall administration office.

CHRISTMAS FASHION SHOW

With spiked-up hair and glittery makeup, kids take over the ramp in celebration of the advance screening of Jim Carey's "The Grinch." "The Grinch Colors of Christmas Fashion Show" was organized by dwLL/Mellow Touch 94.7, Robinson's Malls and UIP-Viva International Pictures. Held at the Orosa Atrium in Robinson's Place Manila, kids show off style and theme inspired by the movie. Christmas collections from Beverly Hills and Co., GBX, 26 Red, All Boxed Up and Maldita were featured.

Kiwanis Week set Jan. 14-20

THE PHILIPPINE-LUZON District of Kiwanis International holds a week-long activity from Jan. 14-20 to observe the 86th year of its foundation. Every third week of January every year, more than 13,000 Kiwanis clubs in the 79 nation-members of Kiwanis International with more than 600,000 members celebrate the Kiwanis Week. In the Philippines, a Presidential Proclamation (No.124) was issued by former president Fidel V. Ramos in Jan. 13, 1993 declaring the third week of the first month of the year as Kiwanis Week. For more inquiries call 921-5297.

St. Paul QC alumni homecoming

HIGH school class of 1976 will host the alumni homecoming of St. Paul College Quezon City today. This year's event will be highlighted by a specially prepared program, raffle and ballroom dancing. Among the prizes to be raffled off are phone kit from Globe Telecom, flatware from Oneida and small appliances. Registration starts at 2 p.m. There will be a Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. James Reuter followed by a buffet merienda. Entrance is free. All St. Paul QC alumnae are invited to join this special annual event. For particulars, please call Bing Noel Joaquin at 631-5729; Carrie de Vera Torres at 435-6999 and Dit Vergara Carino at 372-1723.

NETWORK ALLIANCE

Gateway TV Network and 3-ABN, one of the largest TV networks in the USA, recently entered into an alliance to launch a 24-hour educational programs in the Philippines on Channel 45 scheduled to be operational in the second quarter of 2001. Leading the groundbreaking ceremony held recently in Antipolo City are Manny Billones, chair and CEO of Gateway TV (fifth from left); Dr. Moses Primo, director of operations, 3-ABN; Ambassador Bien Tejano and Carlos Saliuan of NTC with special guests. Gateway TV owns and operates low power UHF TV stations in Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and other cities in the Philippines. Gateway TV Network is a sister company of Century Broadcasting Network.

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"Whoever
serves
Me
must
follow
Me;
and
where
I
am,
my
servant
also
will
be."
John 12:16

ALBERTO L. GOQUINGCO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on January 10, 2001
at the age of 81.

His dearest wife **LOURDES**; children and their spouses **DANNY**, **CATHY**, **MILLY** and **SCOTT GRONER** together with his grandchildren **IAN DANIEL GOQUINGCO** and **MEGAN GRONER**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Interment will be announced later.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DR. MANUEL C. FERNANDEZ, SR.

who joined our Creator on December 29, 2000
at the age of 83

sincerely wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives, friends, as well as to all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations to the Dr. Manuel C. Fernandez, Sr. Dermatological Foundation, offered Masses and prayers, visited and kept vigil, attended funeral rites and condoled with us in countless ways during our moment of grief.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

BARTOLOME C. LEE, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 11, 2001
at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Saling**; children & children-in-law **Joy & Alan**, **Glenn & Jane**, **Bart & Angie**, **Lye & Jun**, **Karen & Mike** and **Dudley**; grandchildren **Maxine**, **April**, **Matthew & I.C.**, **Anika & Mark**, **David** and **Mikaella**; and other relatives and friends wish that you will join them in their prayers to guide him through his final journey.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be necrological services on January 16, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the Arlington Chapel to be followed by cremation at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina.

Virginia Arboliras Arban

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 7, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved husband **CRISANTO**; children **VIRGILIO (†)**, **RONNIE & BABY**, **ODETTE & BANNY**, **JOHSSEL & TESS**, **SOCORRO (†)**, **CRIS & LITA**, and **NANETTE & ED**; grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Philam Village, Las Piñas City).

Interment today, January 13, 2001 at Manila Memorial - Sucat, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

BENJAMIN CASTILLO GUTIERREZ

of Alitagtag, Batangas

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord
on January 11, 2001 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Carmen de Jesus**; children **Eduardo** and **Dieza**, **Ricardo** and **Lourdes**, **Ramon**, **Ma. Lourdes** and **Miguelito Agco**, and **Ma. Teresa**; brother **Mario** (deceased); brothers and sisters-in-law **Melquiades** and **Remedios**, **Rene** and **Trinidad**, **Armando** (deceased) and **Inocencia**, **Efren** and **Norma**, **Cesar** and **Cely**; sisters and brothers-in-law **Gloriosa** and **Apion** (both deceased), **Lydia** (deceased) and **Macario**; grandchildren **Sarah Mae**, **Rachel**, **Angela** and **Ruth Abigail** and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani Parish at Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Cremation at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque and shall be followed by the 9 a.m. Mass on January 16, 2001.

My journey is over, now I rest in peace
O God, my father, into thy hands
I commend my soul "Thy will be done"

COL. VICENTE F. ADECER

0-2397 PAF (Ret.)
PAF CLASS 1941
NDCPAA President 1967-1968
Charter Grand Knight, K of C Council 6059 (NAB) 1968
Charter Grand Knight, K of C Council 8218 (TV) 1982

of Tagoloan, Mis. Or. and Cagayan de Oro City

Died peacefully in God's grace on January 11, 2001.

His loving wife **IDA**; children **Sonny** and **Inday**, **Vic, Jr.** and **Pilar**, **Nick III** and **Tina**, **Queenie** and **Val**, **Beth** and **Boy**, **Dory** and **Joey**, **Nitoy** and **Tet**, **Binay** and **George**; sisters **Isabel**, **Pacifica** and **Corita**; his grandchildren, great grandchildren, his relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Capistrano, Cagayan de Oro City.
Interment will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at the Oro Gardens after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at the Oro Gardens Chapel.

People, Events & Products

RÉZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Kraft introduces new sandwich dressing package

KRAFT Foods (Philippines) Inc. recently launched its 300-grams sandwich dressing pillow pack to its fastfood clients.

The new packaging was conceptualized in 1999 as Kraft's response to the shifting needs of quick service restaurants. Fastfood chains used to prefer food ingredients in bulk packages for cost-efficiency. But then came the need for ingredients to be better apportioned and conveniently packed; thus the birth of the 300-gram pillow pack.

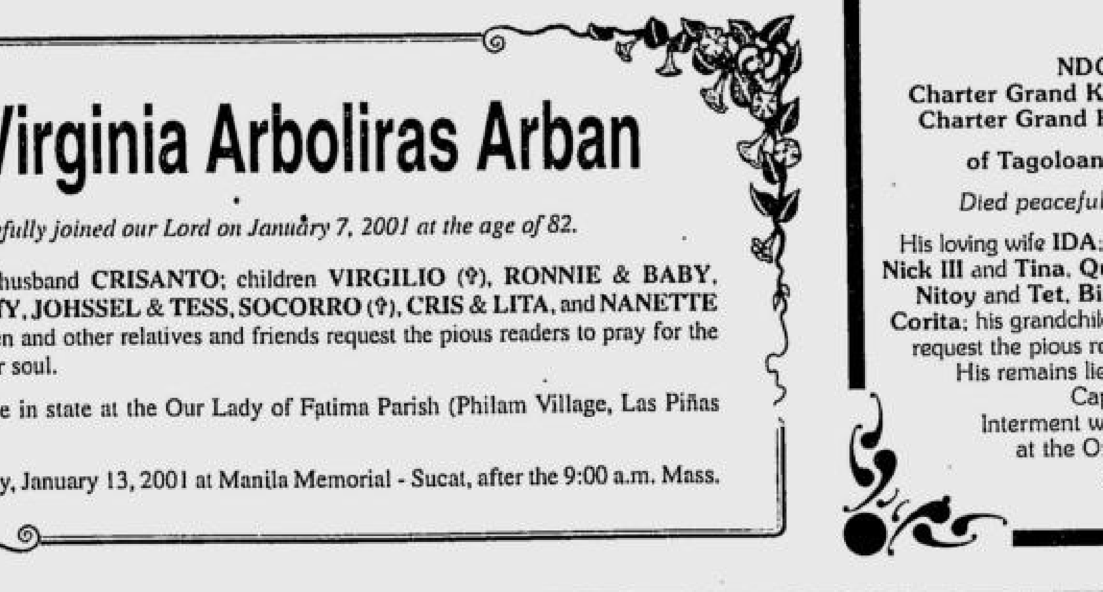
"Our clients prefer the new pillow pack because it makes their operations simpler, convenient and cost-efficient," said Melissa R. Pamparo, Kraft Foods Phils. Inc. senior account manager for food services.

"The new pillow pack not only provides better portion control but is made available to our clients at favorable costs," Pamparo added.

The new pillow pack was launched in a ceremony led by Kraft's director for food services Rene Cortes and Burger Machine Incorporated owner and president Mary Fay Garcia. The popular Burger Machine stores, one of Kraft's many fastfood chain clients, is the first to avail of the new packaging.

"We at Kraft are always looking for ways to improve our service and our products. It is our pledge to always provide service better than before, prices better than others, and products better than expected," Cortes expressed.

The new 300-gram pillow pack is available only to Kraft's fastfood clients.



SCHOLARS AT SEARCC 2000

Meralco Foundation Institute scholars attended as observers during the recently concluded Micromouse International Robotics Competition held at the Westin Plaza Hotel. They are shown with the Southeast Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) 2000 officials. Standing (front row, from left) Oliver Manzanadez, Mark de Leon, Bernard Quitay, MFI coach and competition official; Dr. Yong Fook Seng, chief judge, Singaporean Ngee Ann Polytechnic School; Augusto C. Lagman, overall chair, SEARCC 2000 organizing committee; Marjorie Mendenilla, VP for technical education, MF Institute; Jomel Bariuad, Analiza Carlago and Donna Abanilla. Second row (from left) Edwin Cruz and Jeremy Montejo, Phil. team members; Rommel Tejada, MFI instructor; Abel Inocencio, coach; Ryan Loberita, Phil. team member and Carter Gasiong.

Seminar on hepatitis B

INSAM Corporation, the Philippine exclusive distributor of Cheong-Kwan-Jang Korean Red Ginseng will conduct a free seminar on hepatitis B including its remedies and prevention today at 2 p.m. at G/F Tatlong Hari Bldg., Almanza, Las Piñas City and on Jan. 20, 1:30 p.m. at Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao City.

Dr. Maximo Axibal Jr., Insam medical director will conduct the seminar which is expected to enlighten people regarding Hepatitis B. Dr. Axibal explained that the said disease is usually transmitted by injection, but can also be transmitted sexually.

Persons at high risk for this liver inflammation disease includes intravenous-drug abusers, homosexuals, hemophiliacs, persons who received blood transfusion and medical and dental personnel.

He added that chronic active hepatitis, with symptoms including spidery lesions, striated skin markings, acne and abnormal hair growth, may later predispose an individual to cirrhosis and often lead to fatalities due to failure of liver cells. For inquiries, call 806-6272 or (082) 222-7399.

STUDY FINDING

Many Asians spend sleepless nights

MORE than half of Asians have sleep problems but many take these for granted and do not seek a doctor's advice for treatment, a 2000 Asian Sleep Research Society (ASRS) sleep survey revealed.

"For the first time, we have a clear indication of the extent to which sleep problems affect people in Asia," said Shojiro Inoue, D. Sc., Tokyo Medical and Dental University, adding that physicians should then learn about new ways to help.

A survey of 3,668 adult respondents from the Philippines, Thailand and Taiwan shows that 56 percent have a problem falling back to sleep after waking during the night. Other common sleep difficulties are difficulty falling asleep (52 percent), feeling drowsy or tired upon waking up (44 percent), waking up in the middle of the night (44 percent), and waking up too early in the morning (38 percent).

The survey was conducted by the ACNielsen BASES with an unrestricted educational grant from Wyeth Ayerst Pharmaceuticals.

In the three Asian countries, sleep problems are prevalent among all age groups, genders and socio-economic groups although women and people aged 45 to 64 reported that they are the most dramatically affected.

In the Philippines, 61 percent who suffer from sleep difficulties are women. Interestingly, Filipinos 18 to 24 years of age (62 percent) suffer as much as the 45 to 54 years old (62 percent).

Triggers

The study identified stress as the main trigger of sleep difficulties (more than 80 percent). Other factors include health problems (41 percent), environmental factors such as lighting or noise (26 percent) and family problems (17 percent).

Asians appear to understand the impact of poor sleep on a person's quality of life, health and well-being, and personal relationships.

The majority of those surveyed (70 percent) agree that work performance suffers as a result of poor sleep, and the same number believe that the amount of sleep a person gets at night affects how they function and feel the next day. About two-thirds of those with sleep problems agree that lack of sleep may lead to other health problems and accelerate the aging process.

Those who are severely or moderately affected by their sleep problems report the highest level of impact on quality of life and worry most about the negative effects on their general health, social life, and daytime alertness.

Nearly one-quarter feel that sleep difficulties are taking over their lives, and even more fear that their general health is affected (29 percent).

In particular, they report feeling drowsy during the day (72 percent) and often fight off periods of sleepiness during the day (47 percent) regardless of how much sleep they have gotten. They often get headaches (55 percent), express anger too quickly (49 percent) and become easily irritated or annoyed (43 percent). These individuals complain that sleep difficulties greatly impact their relationships with family and friends (15 percent) and as a result they are unable to socialize (15 percent).

Ignoring the problem

Despite understanding the consequences of poor sleep, respondents believe their own sleep problems are unimportant. The vast majority (84 percent) does not consider their sleep problems to be severe or even moderate, and most are unconcerned about them.

More than 60 percent accept that feeling sleepy in the mid-afternoon is part of life, and as many as 40 percent have accepted their sleep problem and are willing to live with it.

"This survey shows that regardless of the perceived severity or level of concern, Asian people fundamentally do not believe their sleep difficulties are serious," said Naiphinich Kotchabhakdi, Ph.D., Neuro-Behavioral Biology, Center, Mahidol University.

"As a consequence they do not take any proactive action to address their problems depending mostly on misconceptions, myths and allowing fear of doctors and medications to prevent them from seeking help."

Nearly 70 percent of respondents agreed that sleep allows the brain to shut down and rest, yet close to 50 percent said a nap could make up for a lost night's sleep, 37 percent believed resting in bed with their eyes closed could satisfy the body's need for sleep and 12 percent think that making up for lost sleep is as easy as drinking a cup of coffee.

Home remedies

The survey also shows that good sleep hygiene techniques are not well known. Nearly half (44 percent) of those surveyed erroneously believe that exercising before bedtime is an effective way of getting to sleep faster and that alcohol is a good sedative (18 percent).

Asians who rate their sleep problems as severe or moderate are 50 percent more likely to actively search for new treatment information than those who are mildly or not at all affected. However, half of this group believes that prescription sleep medications should be taken only as a last resort. In fact, regardless of perceived severity, Asians overwhelmingly prefer behavioral strategies and herbal or home remedies to deal with their sleep difficulties rather than taking either prescription or nonprescription medications.

Ninety-six percent of those that consider themselves to be severely or moderately affected employ behavioral strategies, such as watching television or reading, and over one-third rely on herbal and home remedies (i.e. supplements, warm milk, chamomile).

While their use of prescription and non-prescription medications remains low, they tend to use these methods significantly more than the other groups of sufferers.

"Herbal remedies are very common in Asian cultures, having been passed down through generations," said Kotchabhakdi. "But there is little clinical evidence to support their effectiveness, and there is mounting evidence that they may not be safe and may cause complications if taken with other medications."

Fear of medicines

Eighty-five percent of Asians who experience sleep problems are reluctant to try prescription sleep medications, fearing they will become addicted to them.

If Asians were to consider taking a sleep medication, respondents from the different countries appear to be searching for different characteristics or benefits.

In Thailand, more than one-fourth of inadequate sleepers consider the time it takes to fall asleep, the hours slept after taking the medication as well as the next-day energy level very important. In Taiwan, the latter is essential to one-third of the sleep sufferers.

In the Philippines though, price (30 percent) was the most significant issue followed by the next-day energy level (19 percent).

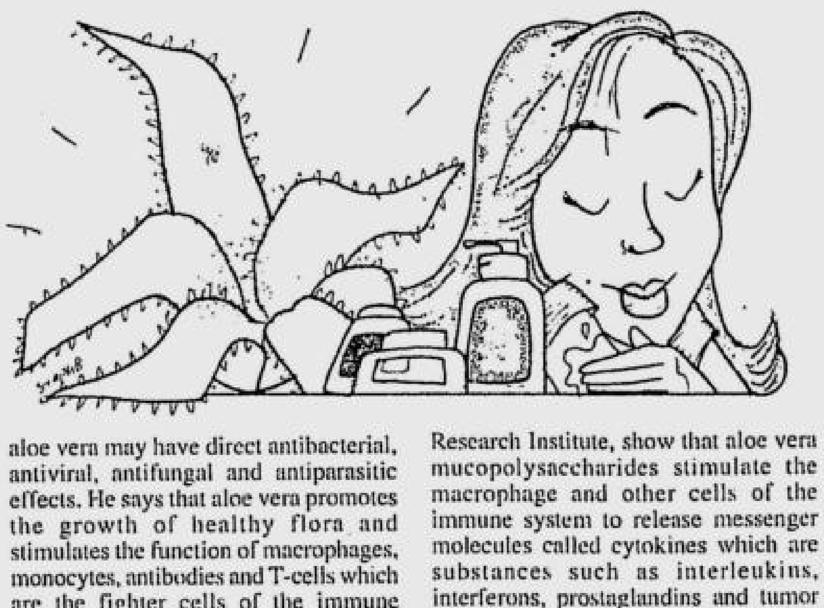
Because of the apathy that exists in Asia among sleep sufferers, it is incumbent upon physicians to initiate the discussion with their patients and to consider sleep as part of a routine physical and an important element of good health, Inoue said.

Difficulties with sleep and wakefulness are found in up to 38 percent of the world population. Apart from moodiness, inability to concentrate, loss of energy, and impaired personal relationships, sleeplessness could lead to the development of more serious medical conditions, such as depression and anxiety. It is also a leading cause of automobile and industrial accidents.

Research has linked long-term sleep debt to chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and a weakened immune system, which can cause an increase in infectious diseases. Medical experts and sleep foundations attest to these.

The Asian Sleep Research Society that undertook the survey, its first, is part of the World Federation of Sleep Research Societies. Its mission is to work with physicians and sleep scientists in Asia to generate, disseminate and increase public awareness about the importance of sleep research and the impact of sleep disorders.

Aloe vera helps fight infections, cancer



IF you're prone to infections, if you have a strong tendency to develop cancer or if you have other problems involving the immune system, taking aloe vera regularly may be of some help. And you may also get a bonus—a healthy glow of the skin.

This is the recommendation of scientists and researchers who have done clinical investigation on this medicinal plant.

Prof. Ivan Danhof, a medical specialist in internal medicine and gastroenterology, and considered a leading authority on aloe vera, reports in his paper that the plant's large mucopolysaccharide molecules show antibacterial and antiviral effects that may help combat new infectious diseases and older ones that have become virulent from long-term use of antibiotics.

Beneficial effect

Danhof, a retired professor of physiology from the University of Texas and author of 80 original research papers, adds that the aloe vera molecules are immune-modulating, which has a strong beneficial effect in AIDS, cancer and many different immune system disorders. It stimulates the body to produce a natural chemical called tumor necrosis factor that functions to shut off the blood supply to tumors.

Dr. John Pitmann, who has written extensively on aloe vera, says another mechanism by which aloe vera helps the immune system is its beneficial effect on digestion. He says that all immunodepressed conditions such as systemic candidiasis, chronic fatigue syndrome, HIV infection and others have a high incidence of digestive dysfunction or maldigestion.

Pitmann explains that the poorly digested food remnants irritate the intestines, increasing permeability of the cells in the intestinal wall and allowing undigested proteins to leak into the lymph system. These are sensed by the immune system as "foreign invaders," which have to be neutralized, thus leading to exhaustion of the immune system. Furthermore, undigested proteins become a breeding ground for candida and other opportunistic infections. Researchers have shown that aloe vera has a remarkable ability to normalize all these damaging processes, enhancing the immune system through improved digestion.

Pitmann also agrees with Danhof that aloe vera may have direct antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal and antiparasitic effects. He says that aloe vera promotes the growth of healthy flora and stimulates the function of macrophages, monocytes, antibodies and T-cells which are the fighter cells of the immune system. Phagocytosis, the process by which these fighter cells engulf harmful particles is enhanced.

Severe infections

Researchers at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, discovered that aloe vera mucopolysaccharides show strong beneficial effects in severe infections, including AIDS. The synthesis and structure of the virus is altered, making it less potent in infecting the body's cells. Various other AIDS studies done by Doctors Terry Pulse, Reg McDaniel and Terry Watson likewise showed remarkable clinical benefits with an average of 70-percent improvement in symptoms and laboratory criteria within 3 to 4 months.

In these studies, it was noted that opportunistic infections had decreased and the patients were able to resume normal activity. In one dramatic case, a man with advanced AIDS already developed a tumor in the liver and after one and a half years on aloe vera, his T-cell count normalized and the tumor had likewise resolved as shown by X-ray films. Laboratory studies showed that helper lymphocytes (CD4) rose to three times the pretreatment levels and the P-24 antigen levels for the virus decreased significantly.

Tumors

Researches by renowned immunologist Dr. Ian Tizard and virologist Dr. Maurice Kemp from the Texas Research Institute, show that aloe vera mucopolysaccharides stimulate the macrophage and other cells of the immune system to release messenger molecules called cytokines which are substances such as interleukins, interferons, prostaglandins and tumor necrosis factors. These substances may explain the enhanced resistance to infections and cancer provided by aloe vera.

Tumors release a chemical that attracts blood circulation so that malignant cells can multiply fast because of its rich blood supply. Tumor necrosis factor stimulated by aloe vera may help shut off the blood supply to the tumor, retarding the growth of the tumor or even causing it to decrease in size. This is corroborated by another report in the Journal of Cancer Immunotherapy, stating that lectin, a compound from aloe vera, when injected directly into tumor tissues activate the immune system to attack the cancer cells.

For cancer patients

Japanese researchers suggest that aloe vera may help prolong survival time and enhance the immune system of cancer patients. In a published study in the Japanese medical journal Yakhak Hoeji, experimental animals with cancerous tumors showed a 22-percent increase in their life span when given aloe vera. A separate in vitro study on human cancer reported that high doses of aloe vera significantly suppressed the growth of cancer cells.

The protective effect of aloe vera was also shown in 673 lung cancer patients in Okinawa, Japan, published in the Japanese Journal of Cancer Research. The study looked into the comparative effects of 17 different herbals and plant foods in the diet as a supplement on the prevention and therapy of lung cancer. The authors concluded that, "The results of this plant study suggest that aloe prevents human pulmonary carcinogenesis (lung cancer)." The researchers said that aloe vera appears to be "widely suppressive against various human cancers."

Experts also attest to the safety and non-toxic nature of aloe vera. Gallen Marshall, M.D., Ph.D., professor of immunology and allergy at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, injected 50 medical students with aloe vera mucopolysaccharides, with US FDA approval, and confirmed there were no toxic side-effects on the liver, bone marrow, kidneys and cells in general. The parenteral administration of the drug was equivalent to giving a high dose of oral aloe vera.

Food supplement

More data are being awaited to validate the apparent anticancer and other immuno-protective properties of aloe vera. However, many medical practitioners now prescribe oral aloe vera as a beneficial preventive food supplement in cancer-prone individuals particularly smokers, dwellers in polluted environments, those fond of eating excessive preservative-treated junk foods, and those with strong family histories of cancer. It is also prescribed as a supplement in preventing infections. The bonus effects are its favorable effects on the skin and digestion. Its users report a healthy skin glow and faster wound healing noted with its regular use.

Trianon aloe vera, which comes in softgel capsules, is now available as an over-the-counter food supplement at Mercury Drug stores. Each softgel capsule contains 5,000 mg of high-quality aloe vera concentrate manufactured by HealthCo International of Illinois, United States. HealthCo is one of the leading manufacturers of vitamins and food supplements in the United States. The recommended dose of Trianon aloe vera is two to three softgel capsules daily. Bigger doses may be taken under a doctor's supervision as a supplement to therapy for medical conditions such as infections or cancer. Trianon aloe vera is co-marketed locally by Trianon International Inc. and HealthLine Systems Inc.

Brainteasers and some life lessons

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

IN RESPONSE to my column requesting from puzzles from readers (PDI, 8/19/00), here are three brainteasers from M. Cardenas of Poblacion, Tubao, La Union 2509. I will not give you the complete solutions, but some hints. You should be able to solve them on your own.

I really love to read your column. Ever since I entered school, math has been very natural for me. The fact is, math does not involve merely solving, but also logic, analysis and imagination. Here are my share of puzzles.

1. Given 4 trees, plan them in such a way that each tree will have the same distance from the others. How will you do this?

Hint: Think of equilateral triangles.

2. I have an initial sum of money X. You have an initial sum of Y. If I gave you P1, half of your money will be equal to mine. But if you were the one to give me P1, we will have the same amount. How much money do I originally have? How about you?

Hint: You can use algebra here. Get two equations with X and Y and solve simultaneously. Or you can always use trial and error.

3. An engineer owns a square swimming pool. At each corner of the pool is a mango tree, which he refuses to excavate and transfer. He plans to double the area (surface area) of the pool and at the same time, without changing its shape. If you were the engineer, how would you approach the problem?

Hint: Think of a square within a square. How would you position these shapes? Make sure not to uproot the mango trees!

* * *

Mathematics is my major field of interest, yet I find psychology to be equally fascinating. Below are wisdom passages from Florence Ann Muyot (e-mailed to me by my childhood friend Elaine Lao-Tanlimco) I find them to be the modern equivalent of the Desiderata. I am including them in my column as a gift to all readers. The words are wise—let us heed them, reflect and act on them.

Life and the Things I've Learned

I've learned
That you can do something in an instant
That will give you heartache for life.

I've learned
That it's taking me a long time
To become the person I want to be.

I've learned
That you should always leave loved ones with loving words.
It may be the last time you see them.

I've learned
That you can keep going
Long after you can't.

I've learned
That we are responsible for what we do.
No matter how we feel.

I've learned
That either you control your attitude
Or it controls you.

I've learned
That heroes are the people who do what has to be done
When it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I've learned
That money
Is a lousy way of keeping score.

I've learned
That sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down
Are the ones to help you get back up.

I've learned
That sometimes when I'm angry, I have the right to be angry.
But that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

I've learned
That true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance.
Same goes for true love.

I've learned
That just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to
Doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

I've learned
That maturity has to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them
And less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.
Families aren't biological.

I've learned
That no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while
And you must forgive them for that.

I've learned
That it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others.
Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

I've learned
That no matter how bad your heart is broken
The world doesn't stop for your grief.

I've learned
That our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are,
But we are responsible for who we become.

I've learned
That just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other
And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean that they do.

I've learned
That we don't have to change friends
If we understand that friends change.

I've learned
That you shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret.
It could change your life forever.

I've learned
That two people can look at the exact same thing
And see something totally different.

I've learned
That your life can be changed in a matter of hours
By people who don't even know you.

I've learned
That even when you think you have no more to give
When a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.

I've learned
That credentials on the wall
Do not make you a decent human being

I've learned
That the people you care about most in life
Are taken from you too soon.

ASK THE DENTIST

PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Fill in those gaps

I HAVE gaps between some of my teeth because I had some teeth removed during my younger years. In my memory I only brushed my teeth whenever I felt like it and I never flossed. I always said that I never had the time and felt lazy about doing the hygiene chore.

Now I have turned over a new leaf. I brush my teeth and floss them regularly. In fact I hate the taste of plaque on my teeth. But lately I have been confronted with a decision to wear dentures or not. My teeth feel fine and since most of the spaces are in the back, I don't see why I should be hassled with wearing dentures.

Should I stick to my decision?

Brenda Gomez

Dear Brenda,

When you have gaps between your teeth there is a tendency for all the teeth around to move toward the gap. Teeth like to contact each other every instance you bite. The upper tooth falls into the lower space. The lower tooth moves up to the upper space.

And the teeth next to the space tend to tilt toward the space. You would probably notice this next time you take a good look at your teeth.

This creates a bite that gives a lot of stress on the teeth and also a lot of stress on the joint. Your joint could be prone to clicking…possibly with pain. Some people even experience periods of lockjaw.

Maybe you are wary of wearing a denture that you would have to remove when you brush your teeth or sleep. Although a removable denture with metal clasps is very good, there is a removable denture with gum-colored clasps if esthetics is your concern. Then again there is a fixed bridge option wherein you do not have to remove your dentures at all. Your dentist can show you models of these dentures so that you would have a good idea of what you are getting into.

You should make your decision soon so that your condition does not worsen.

* * *

Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@usa.net. The author, a UP College of Dentistry graduate, is a general and cosmetic dentist who is licensed both here and in the United States.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Mental trauma caregivers needed

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE MENTAL health of Filipinos is increasingly becoming a national issue as the need for more psychosocial caregivers are being sought for one national disaster to another. Even the backbone of the country's economy—the workforce—is seeking more and more stress management programs to cope with today's economic and social pressures, the National Mental Health Program disclosed.

Psychosocial caregivers are social workers who debrief and comfort disaster and armed conflict survivors and their families.

Program manager Dr. Ma. Consuelo S. Aleta stated that the mental health program's team is composed of a child adolescent psychiatrist, psychologist, nutritionist, nurses and social workers who would train psychosocial caregivers in all regions of the country. The program team would be present in major disaster sites to help emotionally drained rescuers and social workers cope with the tragedies.

Administering stress management to companies is also another emerging activity of the group.

Year 2001, meanwhile, has been declared by the World Health Organization as a Mental Health Year in recognition of the growing importance of mental health in today's fast-paced lifestyle.

Increased need

Aleta said all the recent major disasters in the country since 1990, from the Baguio earthquake to the Payatas landslide have called for the increased development of mental health services for the public.

She added that the acceptance and recognition of such kind of services have also been strengthened by the "chronic cycle of poverty."

Other factors that have been contributory to this need are rapid urbanization, emergence of new technologies and the menace of illegal drugs.

PLAY therapy for young evacuees at the height of the government-MILF conflict last year. FROILAN GALLARDO

On the other hand, Meredith F. Castro, a rehabilitation psychologist at the University of the Philippines, said Filipinos are especially resilient to such tragedies. Spirituality—a belief in a "Supreme Being"—helps them cope in times of disasters, she observed.

The "*bahala na*" attitude which may be initially construed as self-defeatist, becomes ultimately an "emotional crutch" in times of crises, she said. It becomes a source of knowledge and optimism, and a chance to accept what is, she added.

Family cohesiveness also helps survivors start all over again, she said.

Castro, chief psychologist of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, handled the Ozone Disco fire in which she saw how family and friends' support worked wonders on burn patients' ability to survive.

Psychosocial intervention and group therapy, said Castro, would help survivors gain a sense of equilibrium and control in the aftermath of a disaster. "It will help them regain equilibrium through emotional catharsis. Group therapy allows them to ventilate their fears, feelings and thoughts."

Kids' coping mechanisms

Castro also said that children are more vulnerable to emotional trauma.

"Unlike (adults) who have more sophisticated ways of expressing ourselves, children are unable to do that. They express it behaviorally or they regress into a lower stage of development. Sometimes, they become mute after the trauma," she said.

Myrielle M. Cruz, child adolescent psychiatrist of the Department of Health's mental health program, said that age is a big factor with older children being able to express themselves better than younger ones.

She cited children's reaction when confronted with a tragedy. Some children, she said, may withdraw from contact with any group, others may stop playing and laughing. Some may dwell on feelings of guilt or fantasies of revenge, while others may develop depression and even commit suicide.

Low-fat, low-carb diets unreliable, says study

WASHINGTON—Most popular diets help people lose weight initially but only traditional moderate-fat, high-carbohydrate regimens seem to keep the weight off, the US government concluded.

A US Agriculture Department study found that any diet that limits food to about 1,500 calories per day produces short-term weight loss, but those diets do little to help a dieter lower cholesterol and blood pressure levels.

"In sum, all popular diets, as well as diets recommended by governmental and non-governmental organizations, result in weight loss. However, it is important to note that weight loss is not the same as weight maintenance," the report said.

Atkins diet

A spokesperson for Robert Atkins, a promoter of a popular high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet, agreed that more research is needed but said the government is biased against programs like Atkins'.

"The government is going to go out of their way to prove that their recommendations of the last 20 years are correct. It's the same old story. It's the same-old low-fat propaganda," said Colette Heimowitz, director of education and research for Atkins Health and Medical Information Services.

The USDA report is the first from a continuing review of various popular diet programs. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said it was time for the government to help the public sort out the facts about popular diets.

The report "does validate our need to proceed" with a long-term study of diet programs, said an agriculture department spokesperson.

More carbohydrates

Those programs that have put more demands on dieters—like those recommended by groups such as the American Heart Association and Weight Watchers—have the best scientific evidence to back up their success rates and health claims.

They recommend consuming no more than 30 percent of calories of fat, limiting protein to about 20 percent of the diet and consuming more complex carbohydrates—fruits, vegetables and grains—to help satisfy hunger with fewer calories.

They are the most nutritionally adequate and showed some of the best improvements in blood levels of the most dangerous cholesterol and blood fats and in blood sugar control, the study found.

In comparison, there is weak scientific evidence as to the nutritional adequacy of both the low-carbohydrate and low-fat diet programs, the USDA found.

Exercise

According to the government's latest dietary guidelines, which are revised every five years to reflect the latest developments in science, the best way to control weight is by exercising regularly and eating a balanced diet that includes a lot of whole grains, fruits and vegetables.

Long-term weight control is more related to "psychological issues," such as dietary counsel and group support, than nutrient composition, the report said.

The USDA research "is long overdue, given the problems that the country is facing in terms of obesity," said Cutberto Garza, a professor of nutrition at Cornell University. "Trying to find effective treatment programs is absolutely crucial." *AP*

ARE YOUR LEGS VARICOSE VEIN-FREE?

Walking around in high heels can make you look taller and thus boost your self-confidence. However, wearing high heels can also be an ordeal for your legs. It could be one of the factors leading to varicose veins.

What are varicose veins?

Varicose veins are characterized by abnormally swollen or dilated veins due to the congestion and pooling of blood in the enlarged superficial venous system. Swelling, aching, and heaviness of the legs are just some symptoms, which are worsened by prolonged sitting or standing, obesity, and pregnancy. Varicosities are developed over time, thus, their management will likewise require a longer treatment period.

What should I do to keep my legs beautiful?

The use of Hirudoid provides you with immediate relief from pain and tiredness of the legs. Most importantly, the regular and continuous use of Hirudoid will enable you to obtain maximum results from the swelling of dilated veins through improved venous blood circulation, addressing your aesthetic concerns.

Why should I use Hirudoid?

Hirudoid contains Mucopolysaccharide Polysulfate (MPS), a breakthrough organic compound which speeds up your skin's natural healing process. MPS was discovered by German doctors and scientists from the lungs of calves. Because it is similar to the MPS compound found in the human body, Hirudoid is non-allergenic and non-irritating.

Hirudoid has four well-defined therapeutic effects: anti-inflammation, anti-swelling, anti-coagulation (anti- blood clotting), and the regeneration of tissues.

. Unlike other remedies, Hirudoid goes right through your skin's deeper layers, breaking down old skin to hasten regeneration and repair. It provides you immediate relief from the pain and tiredness of the legs that result from varicose veins. Regular and continued use of Hirudoid minimizes the appearance of varicose veins. Moreover, using Hirudoid on your tired legs helps keep them beautiful and prevents the appearance of undesirable varicosities.

How do I use Hirudoid?

Simply massage a 3-5 cm. of Hirudoid cream or gel in the affected areas twice a day until varicosities have visibly subsided.

What do people say about Hirudoid?

"Most women are really conscious with their legs. Kaya nga I really take good care of mine. To prevent and control the occurrence of varicose veins, I use Hirudoid. Until now I'm using it 'cause you will only get the desired results with continuous application over time."

-- Alexandra Cruz, 25 years old, sales representative

Hirudoid can also be used for bruises, hematomas, inflammations and swellings, cuts and scars, sunburn, hemorrhoids, and first-degree burns.

ADVT

Overcoming anxiety and panic attacks

BY KATZ A. TORRESNOC

YOU are in a big store enjoying the moment, suddenly, for no apparent reason, you feel heady and dizzy. Your heart begins to pound faster. You hyperventilate as your breathing becomes irregular. Your hands tremble, your throat is dry and you are disoriented. The more you try to handle yourself, the more you feel a sense of doom. You rush to your car, unable to step on the brakes. A wave of panic strikes, another one engulfs you. "I'm going to die! I'm having a heart attack!" You step on the gas and continue driving until the fear slows down.

You stop and wonder if this experience will happen again. And you feel a grave sense of anticipation. You just experienced a panic attack.

You tell yourself that you might start being afraid of big spaces or the highway. Later, you avoid some places since an attack may happen again. Before you realize it, your world becomes smaller. You choose comfort zones, refraining from parties, movies and the like.

Panic attacks are not new, they are century-old anxiety problems. Dr. Roger Baker of Dorset Health Care NHS Trust mentioned in his book "Understanding Panic Attacks" that in the 16th century, France called these *terreur panique*.

The American Psychiatric Association in 1987 listed 13 sensations that provoke the attacks: shortness of breath, dizziness, palpitation of heart, trembling, sweating, choking, feeling nauseous, feeling unreal, numbness, hot flushes, chest pain, fear of dying and fear of growing crazy.

A common disorder

Millions of Americans are afflicted with this disorder that today, specialized phobia centers handle different aspects of phobia and anxiety. Panic disorders are experienced by people from all walks of life. Actress Kim Basinger fought agoraphobia for years. Diva Barbra Streisand suffered from persistent anxiety over public performances.

People who experience recurring anxiety have a genetic predisposition to anxiety disorders, according to Judith Bemis, consultant of Abbot Northwestern Hospital's Behavioral Medicine Clinic, and psychotherapist AMR Barrada. Other researchers see this ailment as a behavioral problem.

Millions of people hide their anxiety fearing rejection or even ridicule. Yet, this syndrome is real and can paralyze sufferers' normal activities. Some avoid crowded places and elevators; they refrain from taking airplanes or long trips. The irrational fears triggered by panic attacks reduce their social or personal functions since the episodes can occur out of the blue. Panic attacks may arise due to a multi-layered period of stress and trauma—death of a loved one, marital problems, family pressures, a new job environment, even a past illness.

Beating the illness

Can you overcome panic attacks? The good news is yes, through the help of a trusted counselor or specialist, a behavioral psychologist or a support group. If you are healthy, anxiety attacks can be overcome. The first step is accepting the disorder without shame and understanding that these attacks can happen to others as well. It is also comforting to realize that you are not mentally ill because of repeated panic problems. Consulting physician Claire Weekes and other specialists give the following suggestions:

1. Go with the panic attack and refrain from fighting it.

When you withdraw and fight the episode, the body releases more stress hormones. Weekes says: "The next time you set off to practice acceptance, watch for the moment of recoil and go toward it in a loose, floating kind of way."

You may fail in the first attempt, but a few setbacks should not diminish your desire to move ahead in order to gain full recovery. Each person has his own fear intensity level. Some may be cured in six months, others succeed after 10 or 15 years. Recovery is based on a combination of different factors; total acceptance of a panic disorder plays an important role in the process. For example, you may feel helpless and shameful about your seeming defect. An approach called "inner dialogue" to balance the non-acceptance talk and acceptance talk can help.

Bemis and Barrada provide this systematic, nurturing method:

Non-acceptance talk: "What's wrong with me? This isn't normal!" Use the acceptance talk: "I have a panic disorder. The feelings I'm having are normal for what I'm dealing with. It will help if I can be accepting of that." Another inner dialogue is, "I don't see anyone else dealing with something like this, Why me?" Change to the acceptance talk: "Everyone deals with something. For one, it is a chronic fear of intense anxiety or panic attack. So be it!"

Patience is the key

2. Take the first steps to recover at a moderate pace.

Claire Weekes suggests patience. Rushing yourself to end the panic syndrome increases agitation. "Each person must be prepared to recover at his or her own pace."

While mastering such technique, overwhelming feelings are natural, you need not wallow in self-pity, anger or disappointment. Seeing the panic through and recognizing its "arrival" without anticipating a second or third repetition during the day eventually releases you from immense fear.

Dealing with fear is another story. Deep inside, you fear the anticipative dangers of more surprise attacks. It is better to label these strong feelings of panic not as fear but simply discomfort. When you realize that the initial reaction does not involve the emotion of fear but a simple recognition of fear, your response may be a positive one.

Simply put, if you feel that traffic means "blocking the way" (a powerful feeling of claustrophobia), bewildering thoughts are immediately registered in the body. But when such situation (traffic) is recognized as a temporary freeze of motion, the perceived danger is slowly erased. This change in behavior pattern done at your own pace can result in better build-up of self-confidence. You should be prepared to feel and think anything without judgment on your part.

3. Create tools for coping mechanisms.

Expect to experience some anxiety knowing that an attack can trigger at an unusual time or place. When physical reactions such as sweaty palms, palpitations, or dizziness occur, switch your thinking mode to more realistic thoughts like: "It's starting again, I will let go and it will pass." A rising wave of terror may engulf you but don't run to a safety nest immediately.

Research has shown that if you leave a situation while in a state of panic or heightened anxiety, you will have more difficulty returning to the scene next time. If you feel like running, just walk away to reduce the fear and go back where the attack started. This way, you create the effort of facing the situation rather than fleeing from it. Allow yourself time to relax before going to your next step.

Loosen up

Feel the experience as the anxiety rises. Stay in the present to keep yourself grounded—look at the sky, feel the back of the chair and listen to the noise. This coping technique helps you keep in touch with reality.

You will notice that phobic or anxiety attacks come in different levels. In past episodes, you may have to run to an emergency room of a hospital at the first sign of fear. This time, give yourself the chance to feel it settle down.

You are now coping and learning that you can function even in the presence of fear. Focus on things other than yourself. Read the newspaper even if it's blurred, sing a tune or talk to somebody, write notes in a journal or fix your belongings. Do anything that will keep your mind off of the anxiety.

If you are alone and feel dizzy due to temporary oxygen deficiency, breathe slowly through the nose and exhale through your mouth in a rhythmic pattern. Later on, practice some form of meditation or yoga. Keep in mind that though the sensations are frightening they are not dangerous.

4. Join or organize a support group. You wonder if you are the only person suffering from phobic attacks. There are probably millions out there in the same predicament but they are silent about it. Ask your counselor if a support group exists. You may even find some friends who are in the same boat.

Sharing your thoughts and experiences with a circle of supportive people who are panic sufferers can uplift your spirit. Listen to each other's travails, discuss coping strategies and give comfort and advice to members of the group. The advantages of being part of a support system are having an opportunity to help one another through honest discussions and providing warmth in the company of new friends.

Anxiety attacks are manageable. Acceptance of such fears, inner dialogue, pacing recovery, and discovering coping skills will strengthen your well-being. With these, you may finally overcome your fear and gain a heightened sense of inner peace. Be gentle with yourself.

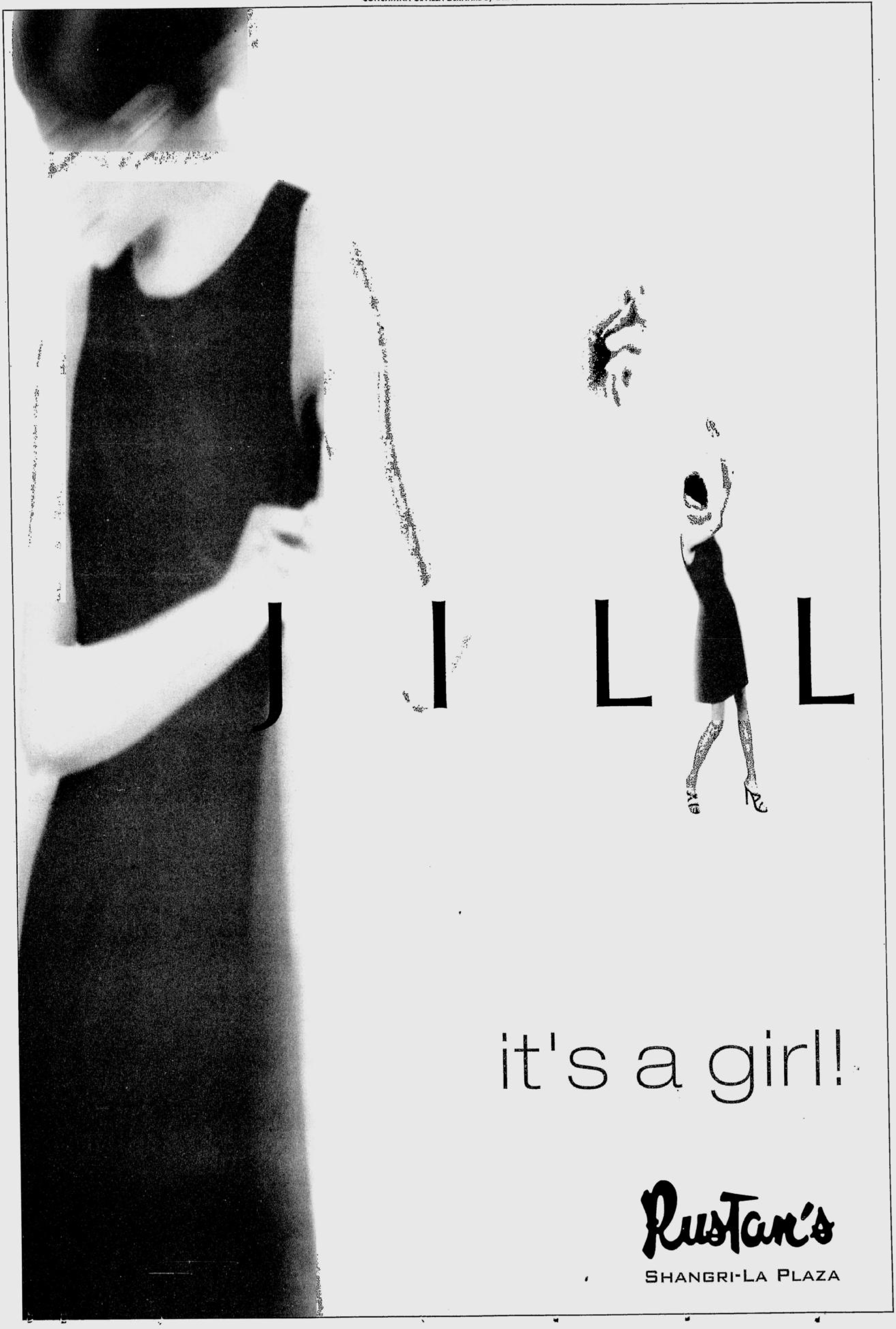
ANNIE CARMONA, Marketing Consultant

all about élan

[éla] flair, distinction, class

CONCHITINA SEVILLA-BERNARDO, Editor

HOWARD BORJA, Art Director


JILL
it's a girl!
Rustan's
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

JILL

WORK • PLAY • DREAM • WEAR

JILL
design direction

sheworkssheplayssheddreams
JILL

The exciting new JILL has been thoughtfully classified into three categories that have been designed to adhere closely to and enhance a woman's daily routine, while providing stylish comfort and quiet elegance to her wardrobe.

The JILL Work line features beautifully constructed corporate coordinates that carry a woman seamlessly from her professional environment up until a pleasurable nightcap in a favorite haunt.

The JILL Relax line is comprised of breezy casuals in cotton complemented by a premium knitwear range than can be mixed and matched with the Work line for structure and flexibility.

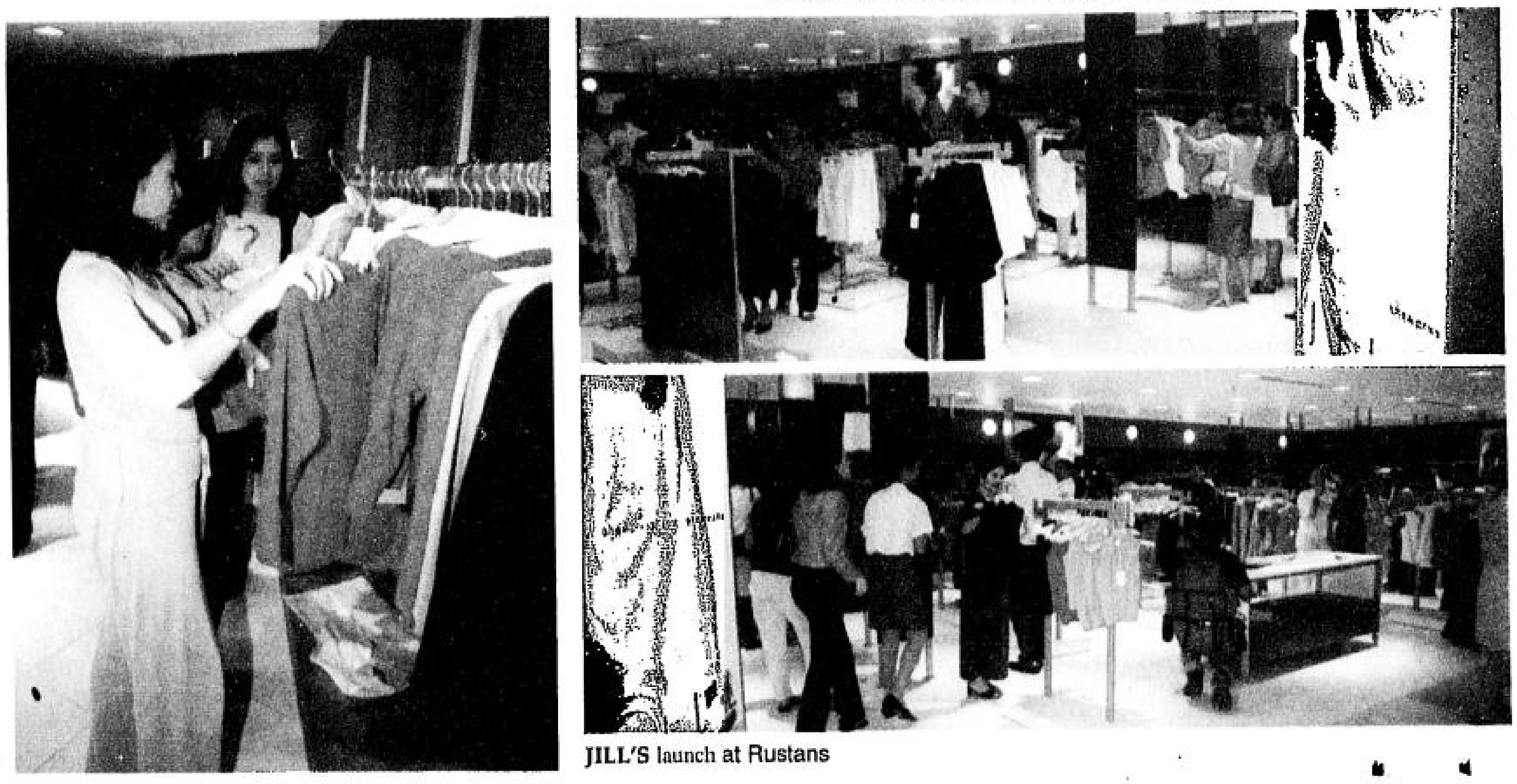
And finally, sweet dreams must be truly made from the JILL Dream line that features the ultimate in comfort with cozy confections in sleep and intimate wear.

sheworkssheplayssheddreams
JILL

JILL
brand image

To complement JILL's refreshing design direction, the line adheres to a sleek styling philosophy and strong brand imaging. Wide, white spaces provide stark clarity to images of a woman on the move, her limbs and visage consistently blurred as if in perpetual motion—because JILL has on "every woman" persona: a woman who is timeless, peerless and ageless. A line that reflects Zen-like grace as it melds the design worlds of stylish form and function, not unlike the compelling yet no-nonsense woman for which JILL was specifically created for.

sheworkssheplayssheddreams
JILL



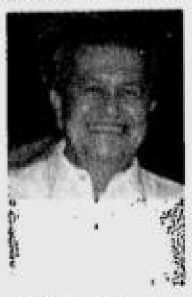
JILL'S launch at Rustans

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Farewell Mr. Ambassador!

FROM left are Johnny Rocha, Marisa and Arturo Rocha, Amb. Enrique Michell. Amaya Michell and Pilina Rocha

MAURICE Arcache



AMB. Avelino Guerrero

RAUL Concepcion

LOURDES Montinola

IT is with a heavy heart that Manila bids goodbye to a couple that has done marvelously well toward strengthening both friendly and economic bonds between Mexico and the Philippines. **Arturo Rocha,** consul of Chile a. h. and wife **Marisa** tendered a *despedida* for **His Excellency Ambassador Enrique Michell** and his delightful wife, **Amaya**. Also hosting the event was the former Philippine Ambassador to the Spain, **Johnny Rocha,** and his wife **Pilina.** The sprawling Forbes Park home of **Arturo**, with the much talked about Christmas lights and décor that he and wife **Marisa** painstakingly put up yearly, was filled with people that came to say goodbye to the ambassador and wife. **Ambassador Michell** is being recalled to Mexico to serve as the Chief of Protocol of the Mexican Foreign Affairs and as protocol officer to the incumbent president. They will surely be missed.

FROM left are Lulu Castañeda, Thelma Gana, and Nining Manahan.

PAENG and Marivic Buenaventura

PILINA and lovely daughter Mayo.

Shop and dine your way to your dream destination

How do you prepare for a big trip abroad? First, you should plan your itinerary well, keeping in mind the spots and locations that you want to visit.

Next, make your inquiry and reservation for lodging and travel well in advance so you get the best rates. It's also important to read travel books and browse the web for information that can help you plan your itinerary. And then, you must keep using your Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa every time you shop, dine out and load gas.

Why? Because the Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa allows you to earn air miles even when you're on the ground.

Using a Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa is a smart way to prepare for your next big trip. Whether you're planning a shopping trip to Hong Kong, an adventure to the Australian outback or a grand tour of Europe, the Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa will help you get there faster.

Every P45 you charge on your credit card lets you earn one Asia Mile. You get double Asia Miles when you spend abroad. So you accumulate miles every time you shop, eat out, and load gas.

What is Asia Miles?

Asia Miles is the travel reward program for Asia. It offers a global network that spans over 850 destinations on as many as twelve leading airlines, including Cathay Pacific Airways, Aer Lingus, American Airlines, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia, Qantas Airways, Ansett New Zealand, Dragonair, Japan Airlines, Sabena and Swissair.

Earning free travel is easy with Asia Miles. With a wide range of Asia Miles partners, Asia Miles allows you to earn miles doing exactly what you normally do, such as spending on your Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa card, flying or staying at hotels.

You can redeem your Asia Miles for free flights and upgrades on any Asia Miles airline partner. Free travel starts for as little as 15,000 Asia Miles (that's one way trip to Hong Kong).

The Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa card provides you with a quick and easy way to earn Asia Miles while providing you with all the global convenience of a Citibank credit card.

Travel for Free with Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa

Thinking of going on an exotic escapade in Indonesia next year? Dreaming of shopping in the elegant fashion boutiques of Paris? Planning to go on a ski adventure in the Alps before the decade ends? If you think that your dream vacation will take plenty of time—and money—before it can come true, think again.

Your next adventure abroad could be sooner than you think with Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa's "2 Million Asia Miles Lucky Draw," the big raffle event where new cardholders can win up to two million Asia Miles which they can exchange for flights to their dream destinations.

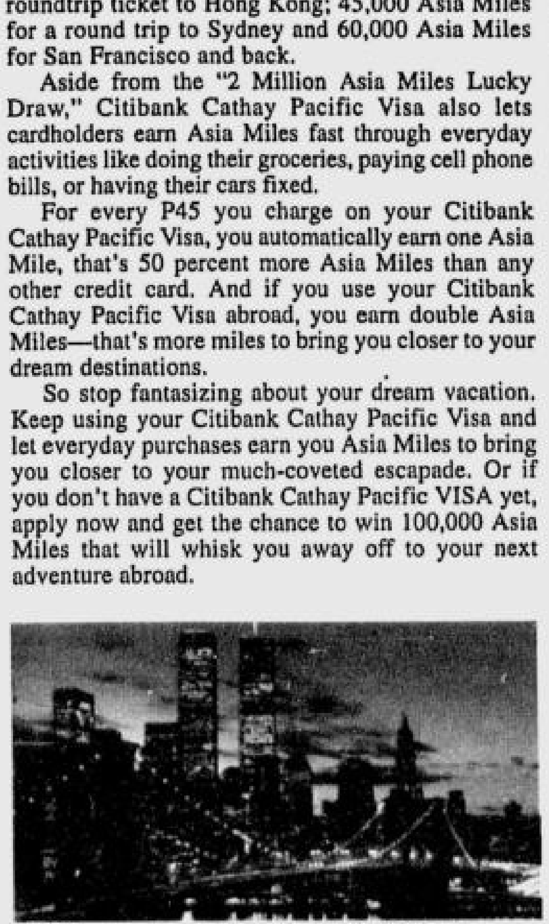
To join the "2 Million Asia Miles Lucky Draw," just apply for a Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa between December 1, 2000 and March 31, 2001. During the promo period, Citibank will be raffling off 500,000 Asia Miles a month to five lucky cardholders—that gives you a chance to win 100,000 Asia Miles every month.

Winners can use these miles to build their own itinerary. They can get free flights, companion tickets, and upgrades to over 850 destinations. For example, it only takes 25,000 Asia Miles for a roundtrip ticket to Hong Kong; 45,000 Asia Miles for a round trip to Sydney and 60,000 Asia Miles for San Francisco and back.

Aside from the "2 Million Asia Miles Lucky Draw," Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa also lets cardholders earn Asia Miles fast through everyday activities like doing their groceries, paying cell phone bills, or having their cars fixed.

For every P45 you charge on your Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa, you automatically earn one Asia Mile, that's 50 percent more Asia Miles than any other credit card. And if you use your Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa abroad, you earn double Asia Miles—that's more miles to bring you closer to your dream destinations.

So stop fantasizing about your dream vacation. Keep using your Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa and let everyday purchases earn you Asia Miles to bring you closer to your much-coveted escapade. Or if you don't have a Citibank Cathay Pacific VISA yet, apply now and get the chance to win 100,000 Asia Miles that will whisk you away off to your next adventure abroad.



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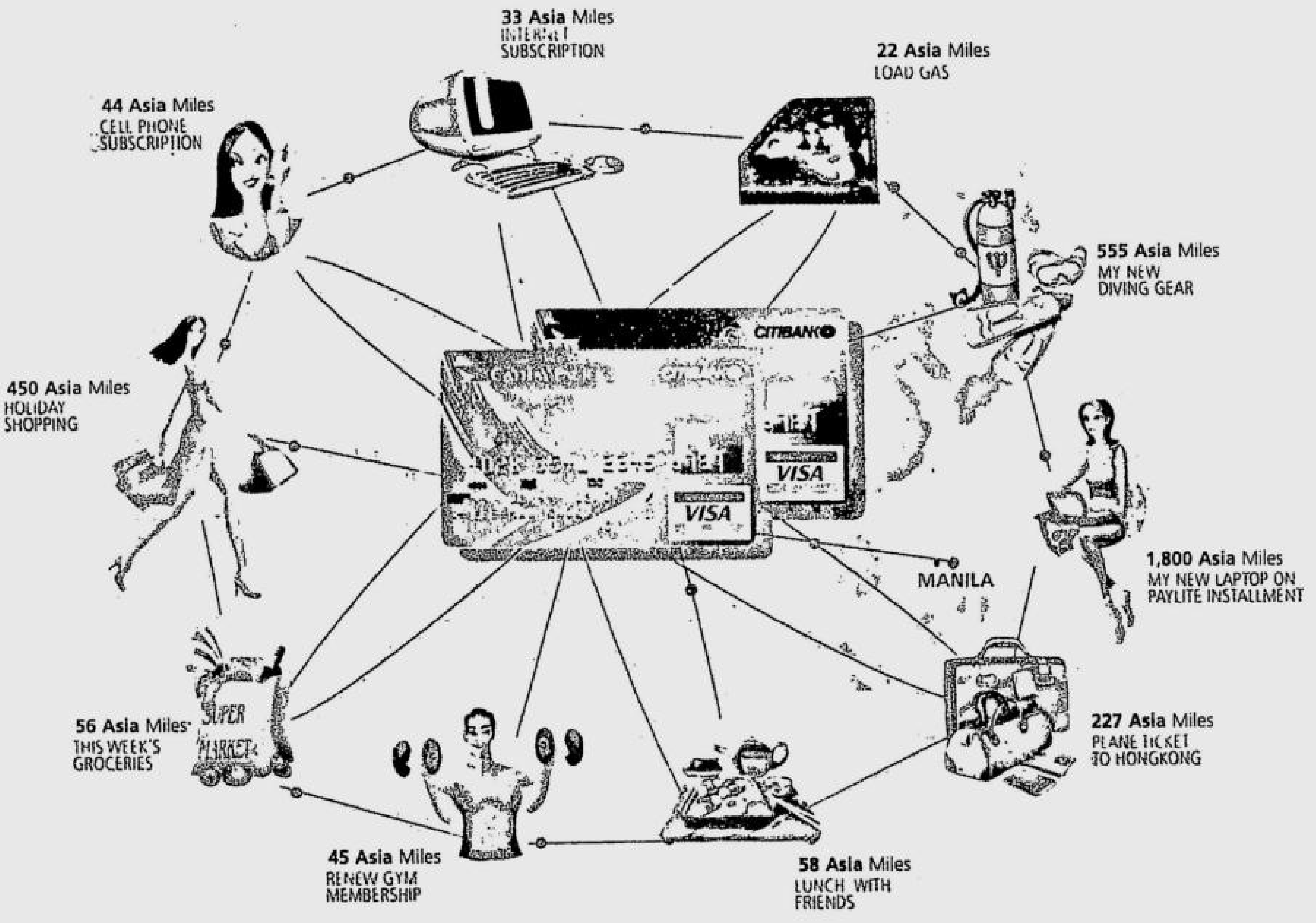

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PHOTOS BY ARMAND FABELLA

THE COLOR blue is a consistent winner for the largest delegation.

The Ties That Bind

BY EDNA REYNOSO-ANTON

LIKE the migratory swallows that fly great lengths to escape the harsh cold winter every January, the more than six hundred-strong **Valdes** clan members come from all over the world and different parts of the Philippines to join kinsmen in the warm ritual of bonding.

At the wake of two relatives buried on the same day in early 1994, and another elder from the **Valdes** clan of Pampanga laid to rest a few days after, **Rene Valdes** wondered aloud why relatives saw each other only on sad occasions. "Why not meet at happier times, too?" he asked his only surviving aunts, **Remedios Valdes Panlilio and Afric Valdes Reynoso**, who were only too willing to organize a reunion, to ensure that family ties remain secure.

No Filipino can ever claim to be an orphan. With only a few names, addresses and phone numbers to go by, the descendants of **Pedro Angeles** and **Anacleta Valdes Juico** were initially able to gather together in January 1995, more than 350 clansmen for the first family reunion held at the orchard of **Eli Rivera-Narciso** in Angeles City, with every branch assigned a color to differentiate them from the rest.

Teams were composed of participants from different colors to know each other better. The children and young adults competed in sports and games. While the elders were busy discussing their ancestors, **Armand Fabella** lost no time in interviewing anybody who could share more information on the clan. He came up a year later with a book with an initial listing of names, addresses, phone numbers of almost 2,000 members up to the 7th generation. His 1999 revised edition has a list of over 3,000 descendants and still growing.

The 1996 reunion was held at the Valle Verde Clubhouse and the following year at the Lantian sa Parang in Bulacan. Transferring to a larger venue like the Ateneo Covered Courts in Loyola Heights for the years 1998-2000 partially solved the problem of space. However, children and young adults complained that only bingo games and no sports competitions were held the past two years. To forestall diminished enthusiasm, the reunion tomorrow, January 14, will be held at the Fontana Resort and Country Club in Clark, with **Camilo D. Quiason, Pilar R. Gonzalez** and **Sergio Naguiat Jr.** as overall chairs.

CAMILLE Anton (left) and Katrina Laws taking care of their uncle, Noble Reynoso.

TOYM awardee Father Manoling Francisco (left) with aunt Gloria Valdes-Serame and mother, Connie Valdes-Francisco.

ARMAND Fabella before the "shoot."

CHEERING them on!

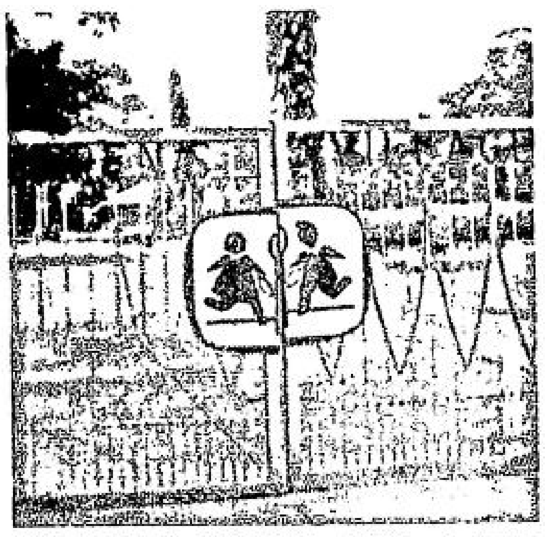
GAMES held at Eli Narciso's orchard

THE SURVIVING 3rd and 4th generation members who actively participate in the planning of the annual reunion.

CHILDREN—our hope and our future

PRETTY three-year-old Julie Libres takes a moment to share her happiness in kindergaten graduation.

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Emily Buat and seven-year-old Alexander Tangpos, Jr. team up in a game during a jubilee celebration.



THE GATE to the SOS Children's Village in Davao features the village's meaningful logo—that of a girl and a boy nurtured by grains of rice, symbolizing health, peace, long life and happiness.

SINGING holiday carols to their guests.

PARLOR games bring gaiety and warmth among young boys and girls in the whole surroundings of the Children's Village.

FACES OF HOPE

A Glimpse of SOS Children's Village of Davao

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY FE R. DACUDAO

2001. Another year! Let us welcome it with hope for the unlimited possibilities it brings—365 bright days to make life happier for ourselves and for others. As we tuck away the past year in our chest of memories, with a leap of faith let us embrace the new one. Let us choose to walk the path of joy in life's garden, disregarding the weeds of disappointment but appreciating the rocks and pebbles of struggles along the way. Let us focus on the beauty of the landscape for much to our amazement, rich blessings await us.

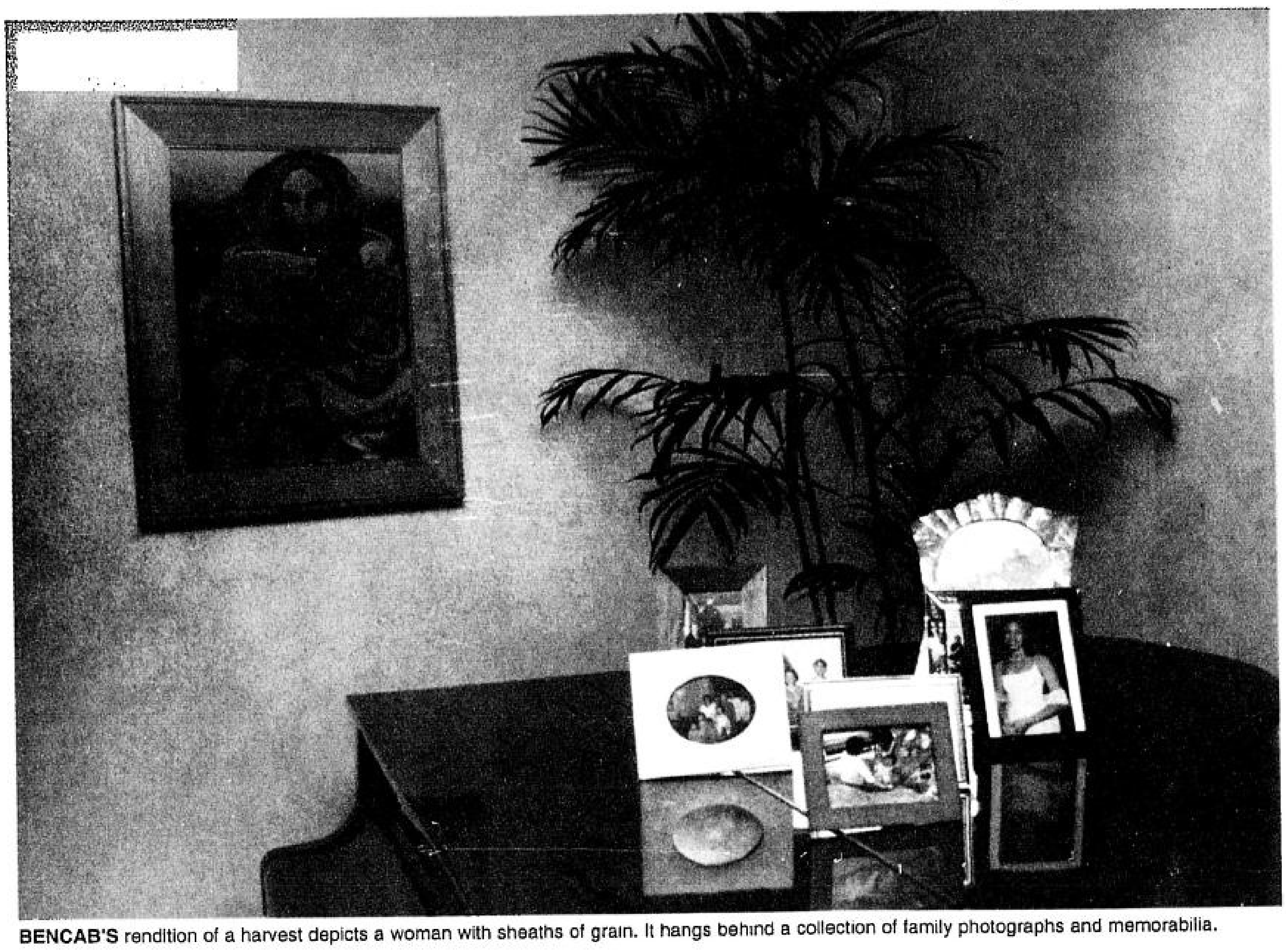
The jubilee year has just ended, leaving us a treasury of extraordinary graces. Our hearts are filled with gladness. With gratitude we gaze into the faces of those we love—family, friends, children. How abundantly heaven has endowed us.

Thank God for children. Their happy disposition infects the soul, unwinds our restricted spirits, simply delights! Take, for instance, the 160 little inhabitants of the SOS Children's Village in Davao (one of six in the Philippines, and of 380 in 130 countries). Reared and nurtured in a natural family setting, full of love and caring, these orphaned, abandoned and neglected children grow to be loving and caring individuals themselves. SOS Children's Villages Philippines, is part of an international private welfare organization called SOS Kinderdof International. It was started in 1949 when Hermann Gmeiner established the first Children's Village in Austria for World War II orphans.

All needs—food, shelter, health care, education, and recreation—are provided in a wholesome environment. Each home in the village has a mother who lives with them, loves and cares for them as her own. An SOS Children's Village family comprises eight to 10 children, with boys and girls of various ages, growing up together as brothers and sisters. Natural siblings always stay together. Each family has a house of its own with the living and dining rooms as the center of social life within the family. Davao's SOS Village has twelve family homes, designed to be part of its surrounding neighborhood. (it is located in Bajada, close to the Holy Cross of Davao City), with all children attending local schools and taking part in community activities. The children go to school at Holy Cross, University of Immaculate Conception or Ateneo de Davao University. They may stay in the village until they are able to live independently.

Miss Victoria Candelaria, the village director, finds her role truly challenging. Her very job, which she has held for 19 years since the start of SOS Village in Davao, brings no single dull moment. Her efforts, combined with those of 87 co-workers, run the village with great success.

It is our dream that all children may live in an environment of love and understanding, with correct values and attitudes. Children, the natural treasures of our country, wait to be discovered and polished for our collective wealth. Let us take good care of them. They are our future, our hope.



BENCAB'S rendition of a harvest depicts a woman with sheaths of grain. It hangs behind a collection of family photographs and memorabilia.

Nostalgia For Sorsogon

BY CONCHITINA SEVILLA BERNARDO

LOIDA'S work center is tastefully camouflaged by *"behuco"* panels that are repeated in her closet doors.

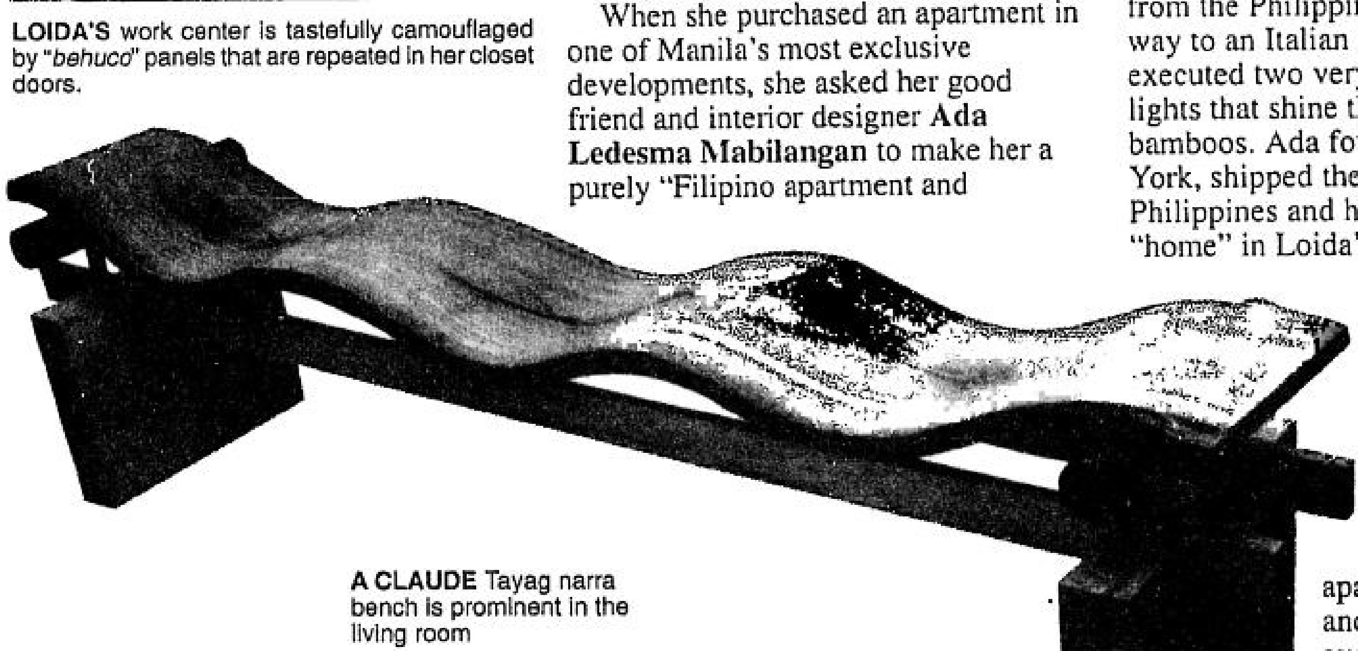
LOIDA Nicolas Lewis has made every Filipina proud. Voted as one of America's most successful and richest women, her story is repeated everywhere, everytime. Yet there is a side to **Loida** that she keeps pretty close to her heart—the side she calls "the little country girl." She has made New York her home, with its skyscrapers and cosmopolitan lifestyle. She heads a huge conglomerate and hobnobs with the biggest names in the corporate world of the Unites States. She has sat and dined with presidents and dignitaries. Yet, she states that deep in her heart, she yearns for the days when she was carefree and ran the wide expanse of *abaca* fields and played around rice paddies as a little girl in Sorsogon, Bicol.

When she purchased an apartment in one of Manila's most exclusive developments, she asked her good friend and interior designer **Ada Ledesma Mabilangan** to make her a purely "Filipino apartment and something that will recall my childhood years in Sorsogon." Taking this as a real challenge **Ada** begun what she calls "detective work," as she combed Manila for exporters and visited furniture stores and distributors. She discovered, to her pleasant surprise, the wealth of fabrics and materials made in the Philippines. This is in between, of course, being wife and hostess to the numerous diplomatic affairs of husband **Ambassador Philip Mabilangan,** our permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, and helping her ailing mother, **Purita**, recover from a mild stroke. Unfazed by all these, incredible **Ada** put together an apartment that is a showcase of all things beautiful and world class in the Philippines.

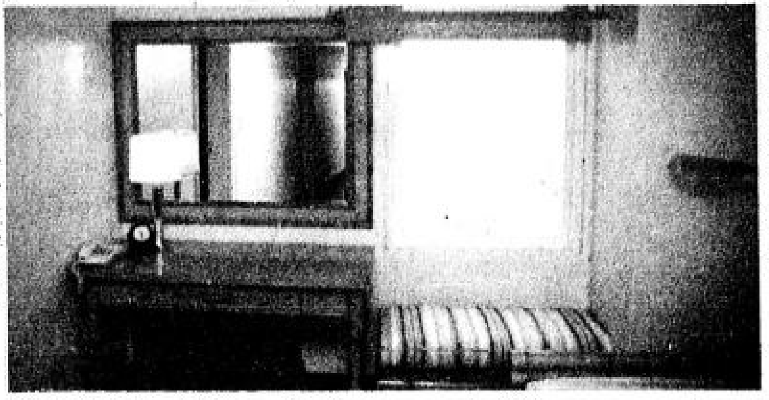
Worthy of note are two huge bamboos in the dining area. They come from the Philippines and found their way to an Italian designer in Milan. He executed two very unusual halogen lights that shine through the slits of the bamboos. Ada found them in New York, shipped them back to the Philippines and have now found their "home" in Loida's apartment.

We met **Loida** at the foyer and she expressed how pleased she is to come home to this corner of Sorsogon everytime she visits Manila.

"The theme for my apartment is harvest time and you see it reflected everywhere." This "Filipino" apartment is a tribute to two accomplished Filipina women, both of whom have a deep sense of nationalism and exceptionally good taste.



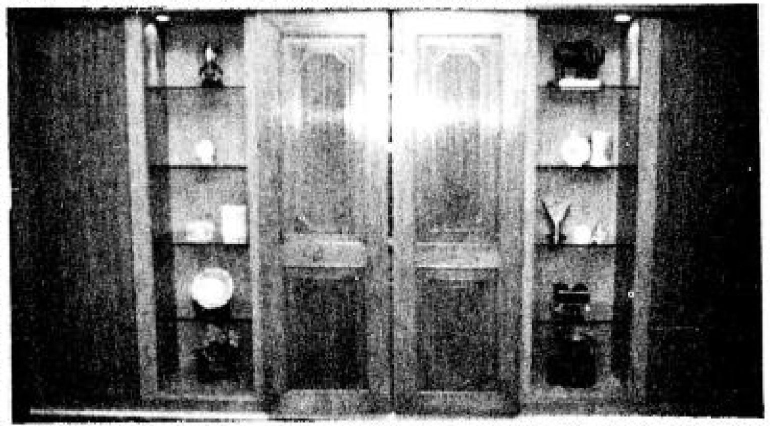
A CLAUDE Tayag narra bench is prominent in the living room



AN AMPLE maid's room has been converted into a cozy guestroom. The view overlooks the Pasig River and old curtain hooks sourced from antique stores hold up the matchstick curtains.

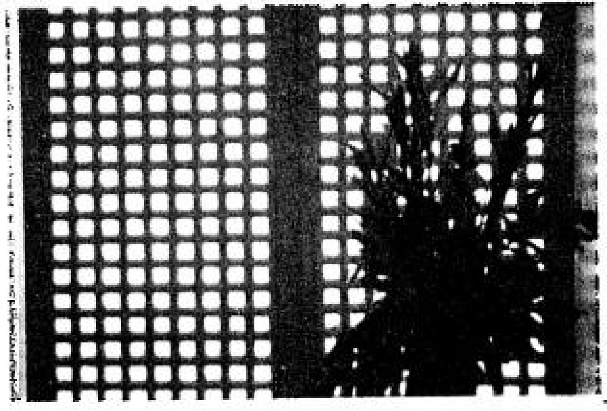
A PERSPECTIVE of the guestroom with a specially designed bamboo bed. Loida found this antique picture frame and put old photos of her parents and family.

THE DINING room is distinctly Budji Layug. The two beautiful laminated coconut round base for the glass top blend harmoniously with the woven leather chairs that are streamlined and graceful.

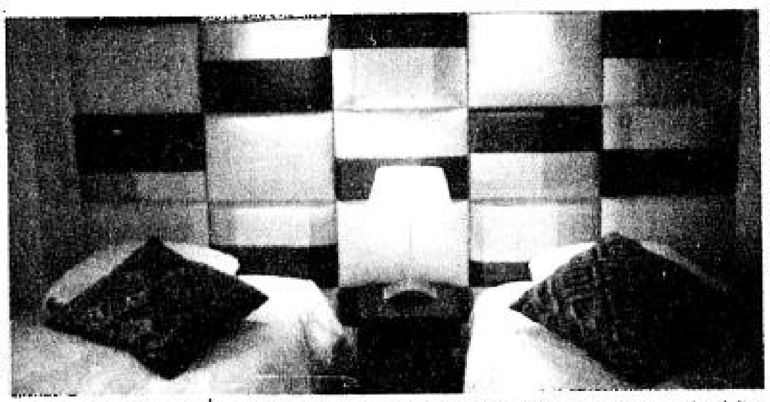


ANTIQUE doors hide an entertainment center that is revealed when the panels slide open.

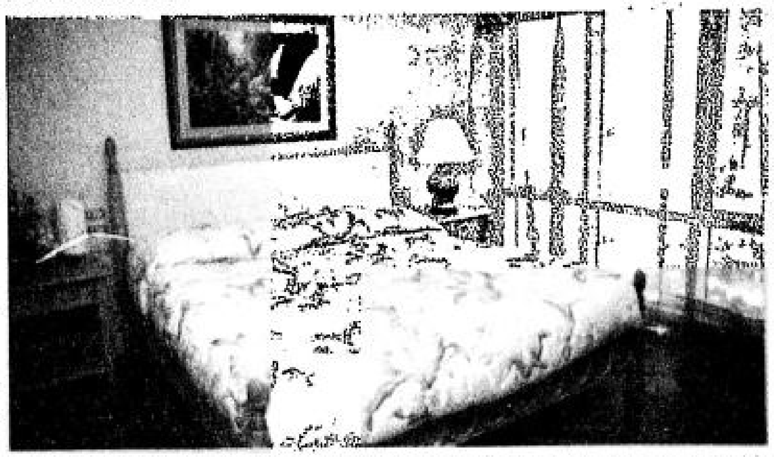
ADA Ledesma Mabilangan in the living room that she designed for Loida Nicolas Lewis. Sofa, armchair and center table are by Budji Layug. Throw pillows were designed and executed by Maricris Floirendo Brias from Davao. Curtains are of sheer abaca. Carpet is of rustic abaca hemp.



INSTEAD of curtains Ada chose capiz panels to hide the glare from the window for the third bedroom. For a better view, the panels slide open.

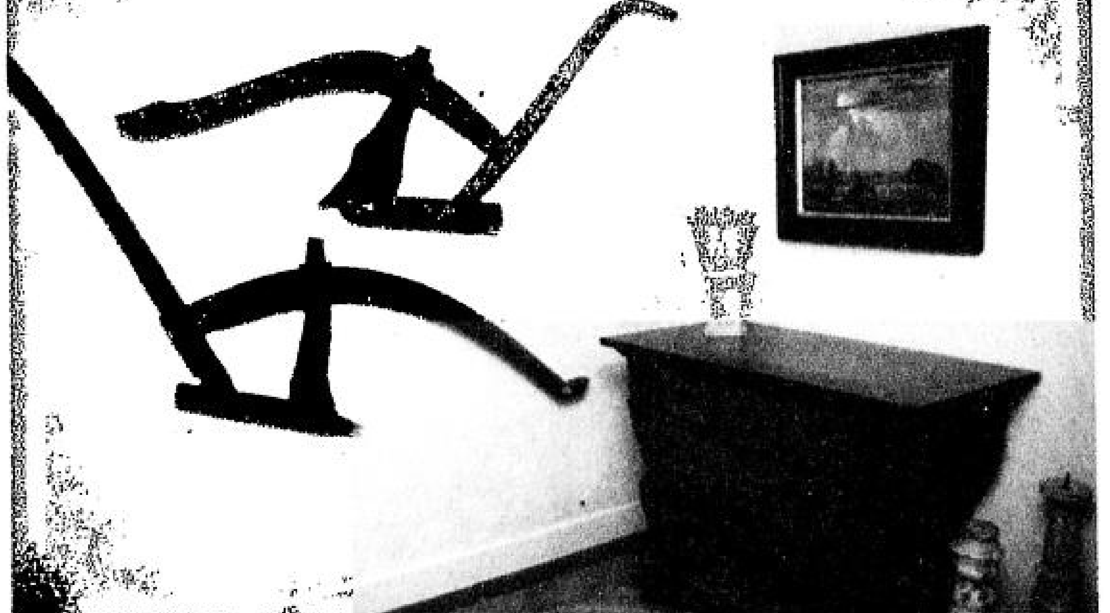


FOR the girls' room, Ada designed a headboard of black and white T'nalak weave from Bicol. Comforters are raw silk with throw pillows from Mindanao.



THE MASTER bedroom is in cool yellow, beige and chartreuse with the most unusual abaca *"sampayan"* curtains that allows the view to come into the room.

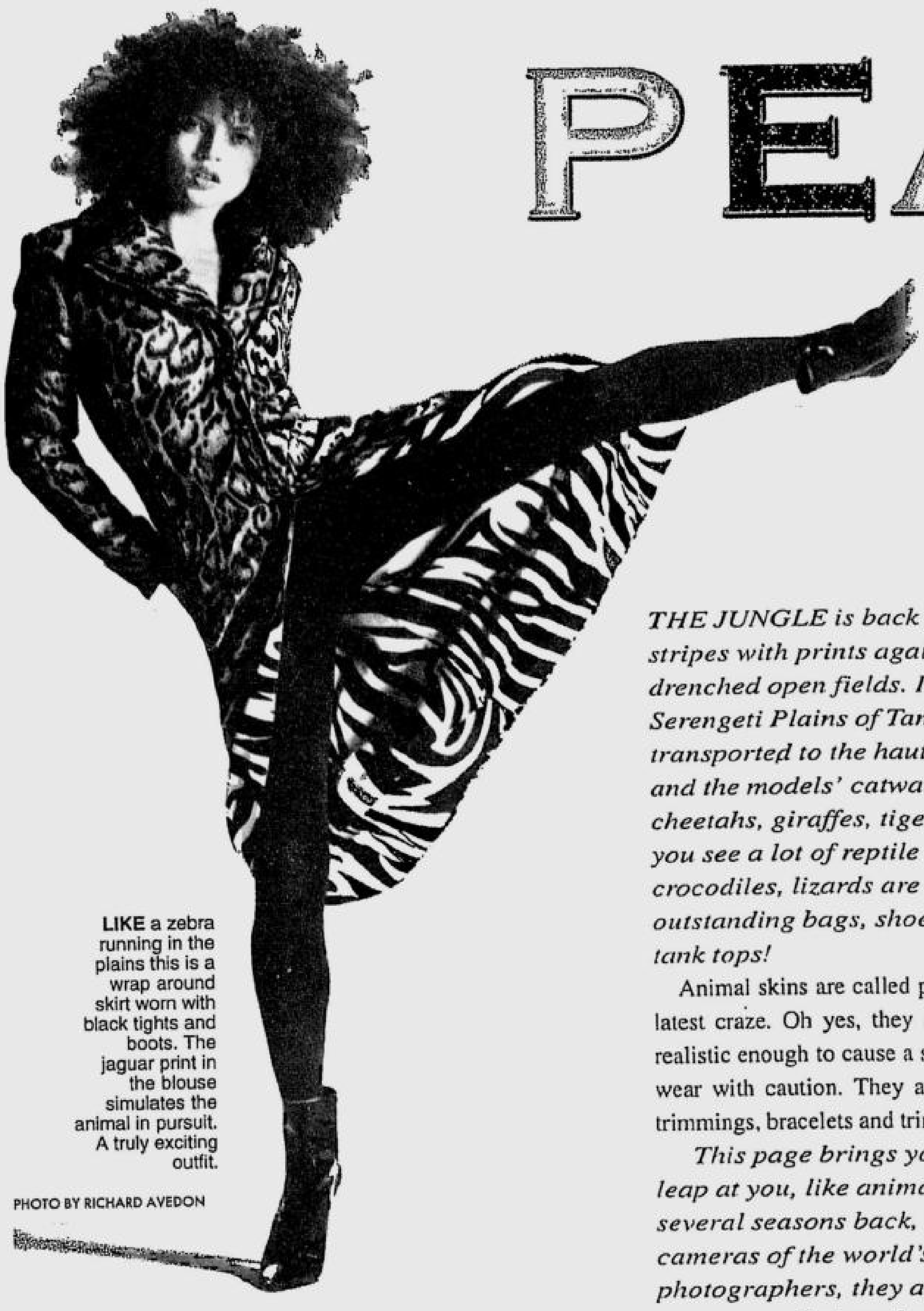
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



A 1927 Fernando Amorsolo painting hangs over a beautiful cabinet drawer of narra and bone inlay. *Palay* grains accent the cabinet and antique *araros* or plows hang on the wall.

A LITHOGRAPH of the Port of Sorsogon was a gift from cousin Marietta de la Haye and hangs on a wall of individually cut stones from Cebu and executed in a *"banig"* pattern.

PEAUX des animaux



LIKE a zebra running in the plains this is a wrap around skirt worn with black tights and boots. The jaguar print in the blouse simulates the animal in pursuit. A truly exciting outfit.

PHOTO BY RICHARD AVEDON

THE JUNGLE is back in fashion, combining stripes with prints against colors of the vast sun-drenched open fields. It almost seems like the Serengeti Plains of Tanzania have been transported to the haute couture drawing boards and the models' catwalks. You see zebras, cheetahs, giraffes, tigers and leopards. Oh yes, you see a lot of reptile skins everywhere! Snakes, crocodiles, lizards are transformed into outstanding bags, shoes and accessories. Even tank tops!

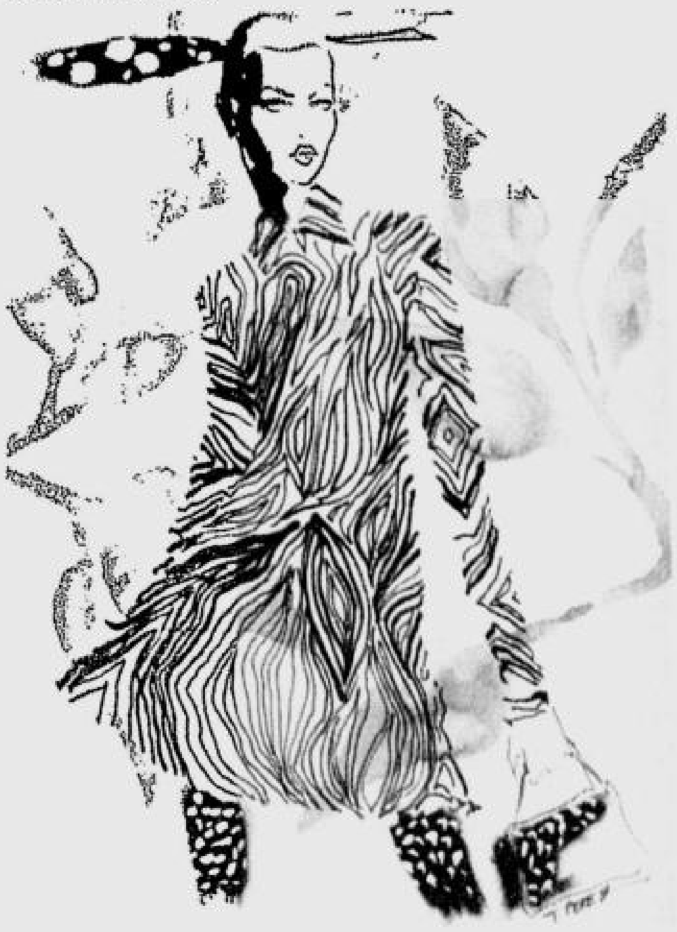
Animal skins are called peaux des animaux and they are the latest craze. Oh yes, they are also faux—meaning fake—but realistic enough to cause a stir among the animal activists. So, wear with caution. They are also seen in shoes, bags, hair trimmings, bracelets and trinkets.

This page brings you creations that almost leap at you, like animals in motion. Taken several seasons back, and captured by the cameras of the world's greatest photographers, they are as current as the newest predictions from W or Vogue. Proving that fashion, although fickle, can go on for several years. More than just a trend, animal skins are fashion statements. They stimulate you visually as they are reminscent of wild life that graze, or stealthily stalk their prey.

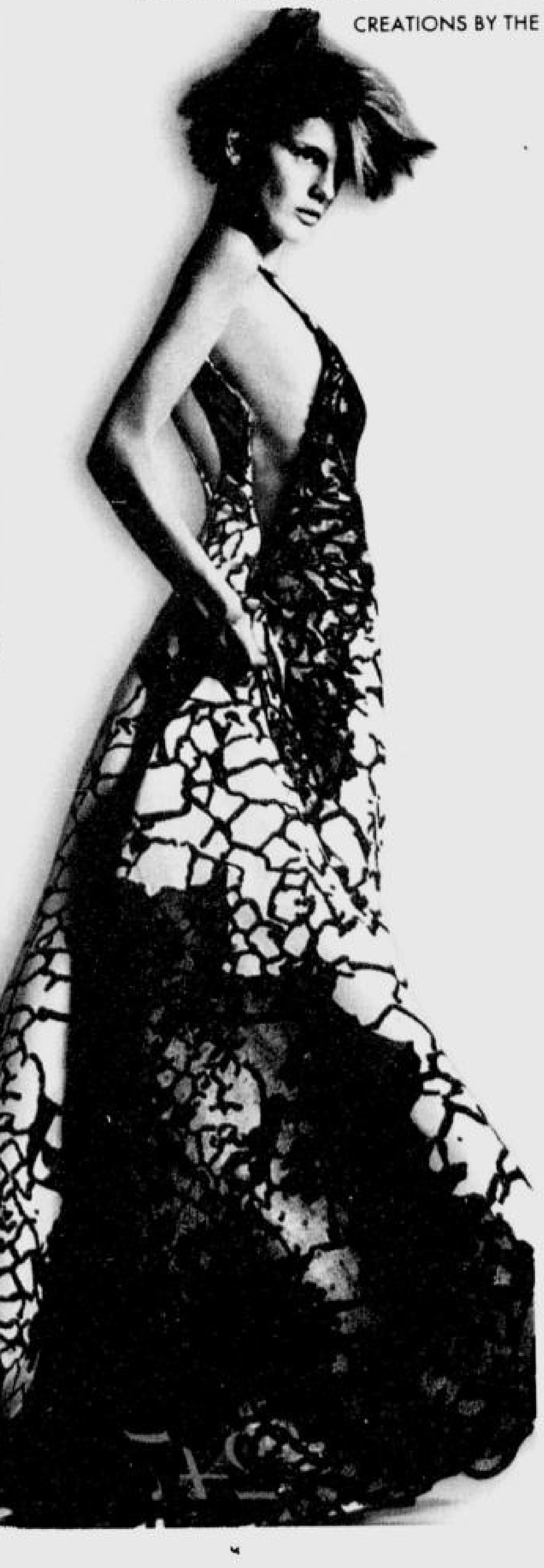
Lithe, willowy models, like animals in motion, give these creations a life and soul all their own.

CREATIONS BY THE HOUSE OF **VERSACE**

PHOTO BY THIERRY PEREZ

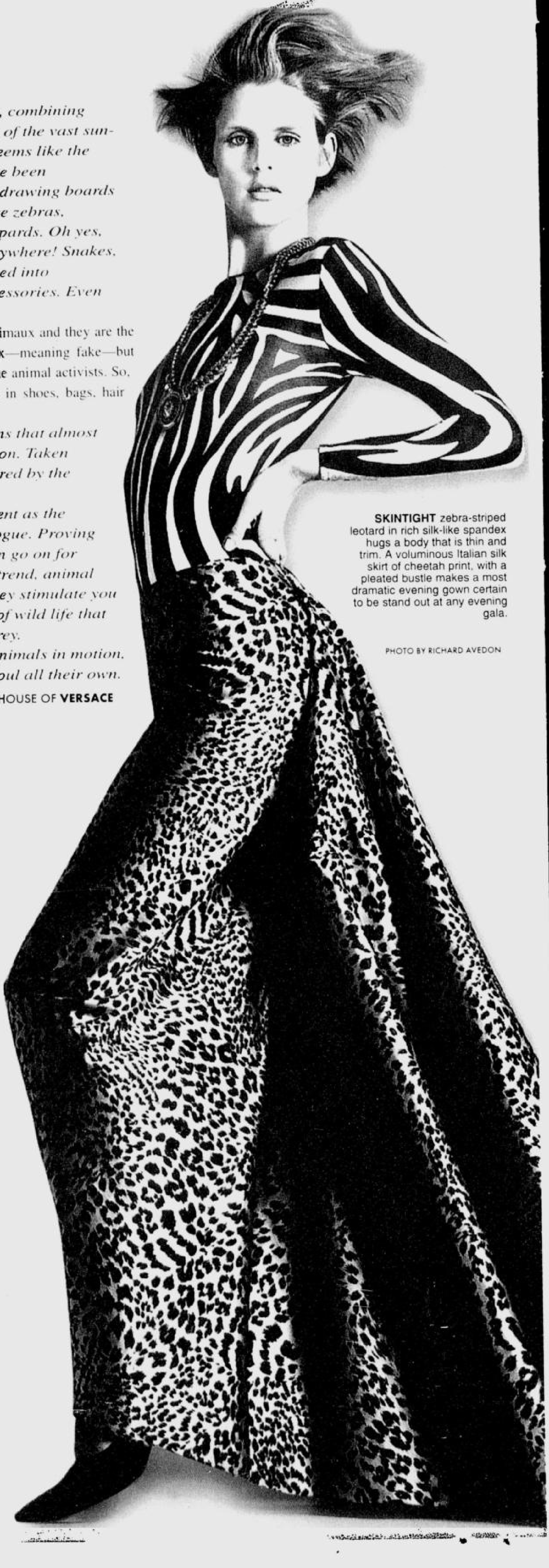


LET this sketch inspire you to execute your own peaux d'animaux. Hairstyle, accessories and accents always complete the look that will stay in style for a long time.



THE GIRAFFE never looked so good. The animal print is repeated in this outstanding gown with the most exciting and almost provocative back and torso side slit.

PHOTO BY THIERRY PEREZ



SKINTIGHT zebra-striped leotard in rich silk-like spandex hugs a body that is thin and trim. A voluminous Italian silk skirt of cheetah print, with a pleated bustle makes a most dramatic evening gown certain to be stand out at any evening gala.

PHOTO BY RICHARD AVEDON

let's talk about a woman in love...

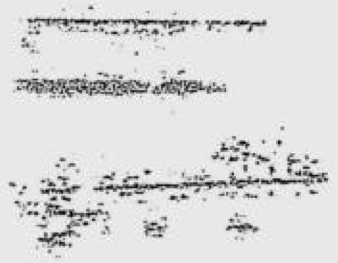
Suddenly, everything is full of possibility. The sun shines brighter, the flowers smell sweeter, everything basks in a kind of glow—that's a woman in love.

A woman in love is a curious creature. At times, she might seem distracted, but in truth, she would much rather live in the memories of last night's candlelit dinner than dwell in the present's paperwork. Everything begins to have a significant meaning as well—from the lovely lavender color of the ribbon tied around a dozen pink roses, which she now uses to bundle up his love letters, to the butter and sugar feel of sand between her toes during those walks on the beach.

We see her in the movies all the time. She's the one with the twinkle in her eye and the dreamy sigh. She's the one in a montage of outfits searching for that perfect look. And what perfect look is complete without a fragrance that speaks what you feel?

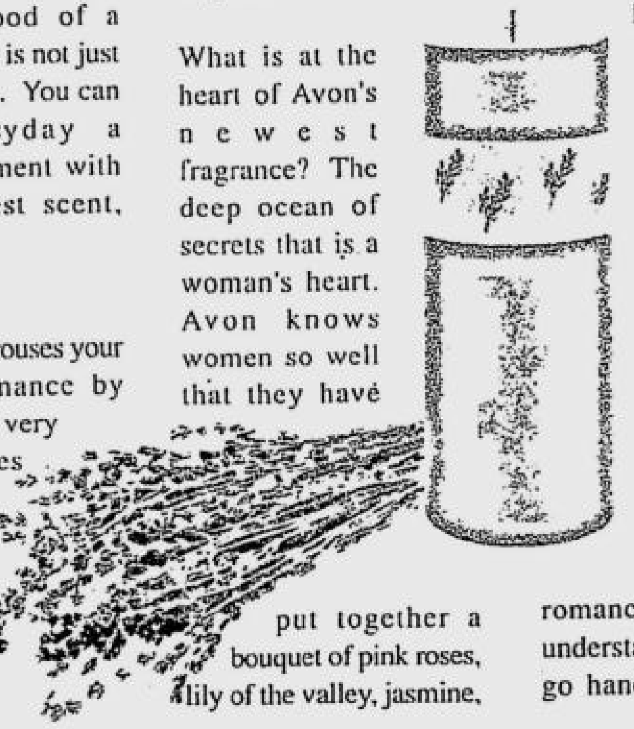
Fragrance—it's the language of our moods. It expresses the ebb and flow of emotions we experience everyday—from fruity notes that speak joy, freshness, and relaxation, to floral blends that suggest lace, meadow walks, and slow dances.

Now, the blissful and romantic mood of a woman in love is not just for the movies. You can make everyday a romantic moment with Avon's newest scent, Dolce Aura.



Dolce Aura rouses your sense of romance by using nature's very own perfumes like the citrus scent of tangerine flower and natural herbs like bergamot and ginger. When these different scents come together, you get a light and breezy fragrance that makes you feel like you're walking on Cloud 9!

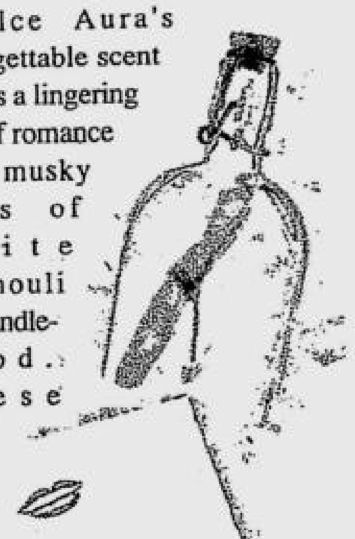
Apply Dolce Aura to the pulse points like behind the ears, on the wrists, at the crook of the elbows, and behind the knees. Once your pulse beats faster and your body begins to heat up, the various bouquets, blends, and notes bloom to bring you the heart of the fragrance.



What is at the heart of Avon's newest fragrance? The deep ocean of secrets that is a woman's heart. Avon knows women so well that they have put together a bouquet of pink roses, lily of the valley, jasmine, and camomile—flowers whose fragrances capture the unspoken desires of women. And one of those desires is to follow their heart once that slumbering passion in them is awakened by true romance. That's why one of Avon's favorite women in love is Rose from the movie, ***Titanic***. She epitomizes the freedom a woman in love feels, just like the uninhibited scent of romance that fills the air every time you spray on Dolce Aura.

Movies and romance. It's easy to understand why the two go hand-in-hand. But movies and fragrance? Avon knows that every woman longs for a romance straight out of Hollywood. Just like Barbra Streisand in ***The Mirror Has Two Faces***. She didn't want to settle for just companionship. She wanted the flowers, the candlelight, even the sudden emergence of Puccini playing in the background — all the fireworks associated with falling in love. With Dolce Aura, you get more than just movie magic. You get the chance to make your own magic by putting on the very essence of romance straight out of a bottle.

Unlike the movies, the magic of Dolce Aura doesn't last for only an hour and thirty minutes. The fragrance of Dolce Aura is meant to last, to linger, just like the way a woman in love always leaves an impression. Whether it's misting a love letter with perfume or dabbing traces of it on bed linen, a truly unique perfume will make you remember.



Dolce Aura's unforgettable scent creates a lingering trail of romance with musky notes of white patchouli and sandlewood. These earthy wood scents keep your feet on the ground, while the unique winged-shaped bottle of Dolce Aura reminds you that when you're a woman in love, you're simply meant to fly.

Spray on Dolce Aura, and don't be surprised if movie magic suddenly becomes real life with you in the lead. Dolce Aura from Avon. It's where romance lives.

Contact your Avon Representative to try this new romantic scent.

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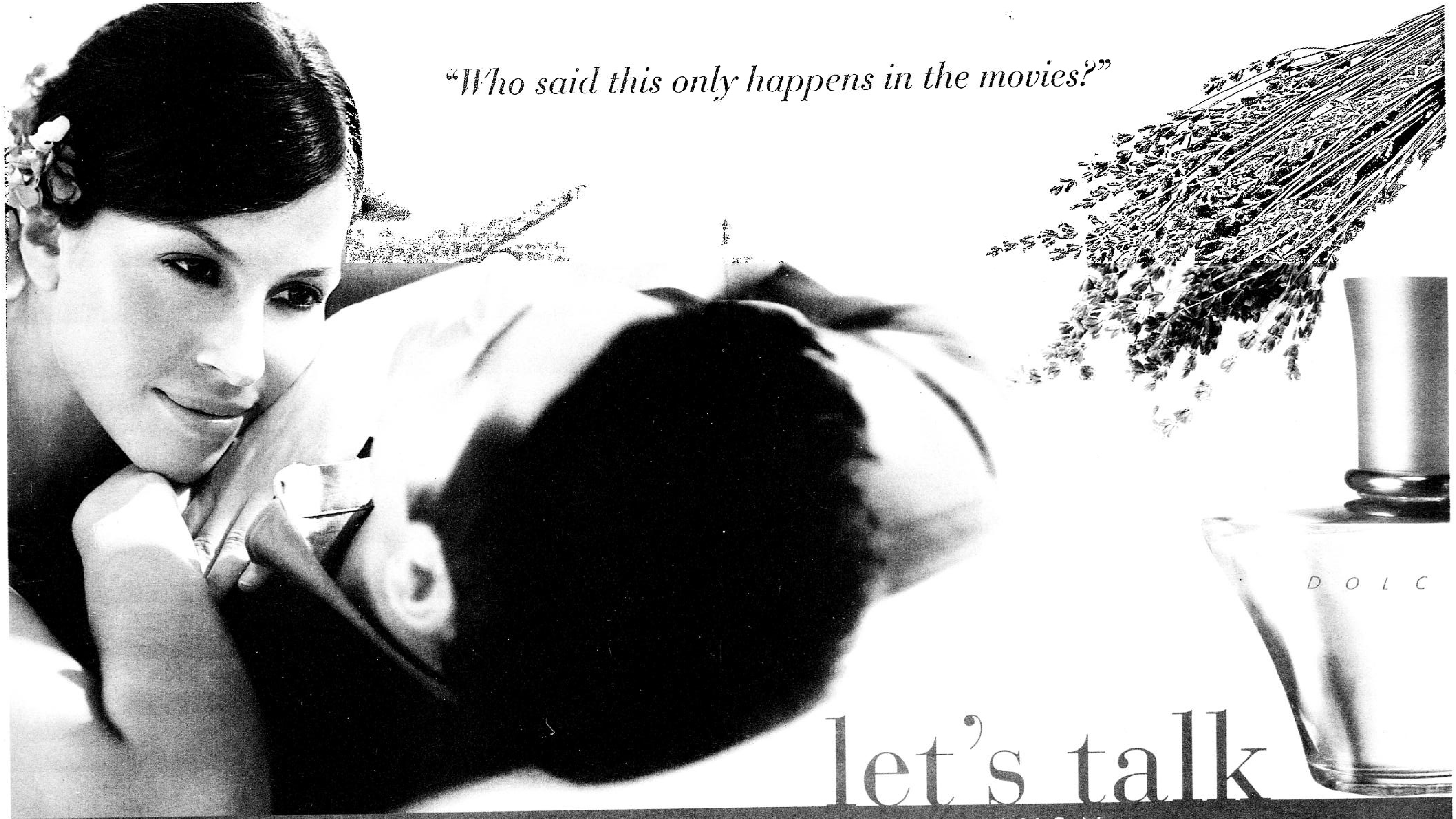
"Who said this only happens in the movies?"
D O L C
let's talk
AVON

MOVIE MAGIC IT'S NOT. I'M MAKING MY OWN MAGIC WITH THE CITRUS, FLORAL SCENT OF DOLCE AURA. MIX TOGETHER NATURE'S MOST ROMANTIC SCENTS FROM TANGERINES TO ROSES TO SANDALWOOD, AND WHAT YOU GET IS A FRAGRANCE SO INVITING YOU CAN'T BLAME US FOR DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY. DOLCE AURA. IT'S WHERE ROMANCE LIVES.

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Saturday SPECIAL

FILM YEAR 2000

Some real highs amid the lows

By Matt Wolf

LONDON—Listen to pundits assessing the movie year just gone by, and you would assume it was nothing but gloom.

But in truth, the past 12 months offered many cinematic moments to savor, often in unfairly overlooked films that may not win Oscars—but won this critic's admiration:

Star-making turn

1. Christian Bale's star-making turn as a fast-track New Yorker at once lethally funny—and lethal—in Mary Harron's stinging satire "American Psycho."

2. The reteaming of director Stephen Frears and John Cusack, his leading man from "The Grifters," in the lovely comedy "High Fidelity," which tracked a bluesy course through the landscape of love.

3. "The Virgin Suicides"—You'd have to go back several decades to find a film from Francis Ford Coppola as reflective and moving as this first feature from his daughter, Sofia: a shimmering glimpse of an erotic repression that found release only in death.

Female subjugation

4. Catherine Deneuve as a factory worker? Lars Von Trier's latest essay in female subjugation was the love-it-or-hate-it "Dancer in the Dark." Working for it: an amazing cast, headed by Bjork, David Morse, Joel Grey, and, yes, Deneuve, who played her working-class role with genuine class.

5. The year's most stunning juxtaposition of scenes: In "Almost Famous," Philip Seymour Hoffman eloquently explicates the death of rock 'n' roll, followed by the sight of Kate Hudson twirling dreamily to the sounds of Cat Stevens' elegiac "The Wind."

6. An American movie, "You Can Count on Me," that's structured like a first-class play. Small surprise that Kenny Lonergan, its writer-director, is steeped in the theater.

Volleyball

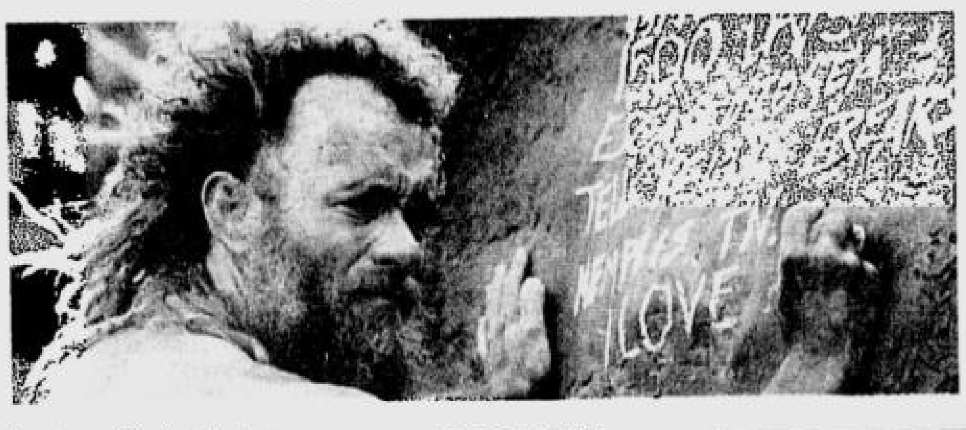
7. The team behind the egregiously phony "Forrest Gump" (director Robert Zemeckis included) actually came up with a Hollywood film possessed of an art-house rigor. "Cast Away" is two-thirds of a major movie, with an acting tour de force by Tom Hanks as a time-obsessed FedEx employee stranded for more than four years on an island with no one but a volleyball to talk to. Sound cute? Not at all.

8. Several years back, Fernanda Montenegro was the dark-horse Oscar contender for her performance in the Brazilian "Central Station," but didn't stand a chance against Gwyneth Paltrow in "Shakespeare In Love." And so it will be this year, with Tom Hanks likely to triumph come Oscar-time.

But if there's a worthy spoiler in the pack, it has to be Spanish actor Javier Bardem, playing the anarchic Cuban poet Reinaldo Arenas, who died of AIDS, in the movie "Before Night Falls."

9. David Mamet does (or, more accurately, does in) Hollywood in "State and Main." Funny, but frightening, too.

10. The camerawork of Alwin Kuchler in both "The Claim," the gold-rush parable of American avarice run rampant, and the smaller, Scottish "Ratcatcher," both of them sensuous to behold. *AP*



CRASH DIET. Tom Hanks finds himself between a rock and a hard place when his plane goes down in "Cast Away."

New beginning for Joel Torre

By Bibsy M. Carballo

"I AM at the crossroads of my life, and I feel that I am beginning all over again!"

With these words, much-respected movie and television actor Joel Torre packed his bags for a four-month hiatus in New York City. Awaiting him was the often postponed filming of Lav Diaz's "Batang Westside," and an important role in "Dogeaters," one of the first Filipino plays to open off-Broadway.

Independent film

"Batang Westside" is an independent film being shot in and around New York and Jersey City. It is said to have suffered some financial problems that have caused at least two postponements in its production schedule. Its cast, composed mainly of newcomer Yul Servo, Gloria Diaz, Priscilla Almeda and Joel, have been brought back and forth to the US at great expense only to be told that shooting must be moved back once more.

But the people behind Yul Servo who are producing the film are apparently made of stronger stuff. Cameras are finally grinding on "Batang Westside."

Westside is a street in Jersey City where a crime is committed. Joel plays the detective who's investigating the crime.

"The movie is a metaphor of Philippine society," explains Joel, "and of how we don't deal with our past."

The production schedule of the film ends Jan. 20, during which it overlaps with rehearsals for "Dogeaters," which runs Feb. 23 to March 18.

Rehearsals

"*Kahit sa Amerika, naglalagare ako,*" quips Joel.

"Dogeaters," which is American slang for Filipinos, is based on an acclaimed novel by well-known Filipino novelist Jessica Hagedorn.

Apparently, according to Joel, the novel had been read by the celebrated director of the Broadway blockbuster "Rent," Michael Greif, who was sufficiently impressed to suggest that Jessica turn it into a play.

A black comedy, "Dogeaters" has already been premiered and previewed in the West Coast and is ready for its off-Broadway debut. Venue is the venerable The Public Theater, and hopes are high that it will attract enough attention to be extended beyond its initial run.

Joel is the only non-US-based actor in the cast of a dozen Fil-American performers, who play double and triple roles.

TORRE. Acting in a film *and* a play in New York.

Awards

It has indeed been a long time since 1982, when a young and impressionable Ilonggo, straight from Bacolod, was cast in Peque Gallaga's monumental "Oro, Plata, Mata." Joel went on to win various awards.

In "Bayaning Third World," Joel finally got to play the role he had long been pining for, that of Jose Rizal.

It's been a good life and a good career, admits Joel, whose latest movie outings are "Tanging Yaman" and "Spirit Warriors," both Metro filmfest entries.

But now, he feels that he is ready to embark on a new journey. He feels that a new chapter is about to unfold in his life, with new challenges, new goals—and new achievements!

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JAN. 13 – 19

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SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Ariba, Ariba 8:30 Star Drama Theater 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 Loren/"F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11.15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Kakabakaba 8:00 Kiss Muna 9:30 GMA's BEST *Taking Care of Business* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12.30 The 700 Club 1.00 Jesus Miracle Crusade	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8.00 Martial Law 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	4.00 MBA 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *The Fly* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Special *Emmy Awards Countdown* 8:30 E! Special *Emmy Awards Pre-Show* 10:30 E! Special *Emmy Awards Post Show* 12:30 E! Special *Emmy Awards Fashion Review*
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6.00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Sultada 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6.30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8.00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11.30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 GMA Love Stories 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Mallrats* 11:30 Sunday Night Specials 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 A Little Night of Music 1:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6.00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Estrada Presidency	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	4.00 MBA 7:00 Dawson's Creek 8:00 The Nanny 8.30 Will and Grace 9:00 Veronica's Closet 9:30 Wasteland 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 Talk Soup 7:00 60 Minutes 8:00 E! Special *Grammy Nominations* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Murder of Charlie Minor* 11:00 Celebrity Profile *Elle McPherson* 12:00 Talk Soup 12:30 FYE! *Notre Dame of Paris*
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6.30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9.00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10.30 Headlines 11.00 On Trial 11.30 Correspondents 12.30 Martin Late@Nite	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10.30 Beach Patrol 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Once Upon a Time in Manila* 9:30 Tuwing Kapiling Ka 10.30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club 12:30 Midnight Prayer Helps	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7.00 Siempre Te Amare 7.30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Greed 7:30 Making the Band 8.00 Time of Your Life 9.00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Secret Lives of Men 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8.00 E! Behind the Scenes *Down To You* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Knickerbocker Hotel* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The O.J. Interview* 10:00 David Letterman Show
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8.30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 Team Knight Rider 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11.30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11.00 The Probe Team 11:30 700 Club 12:00 Pulpit of Christ	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7.00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:00 Rising Stars of Billiards 7:00 DMZ TV 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6.00 MTV Most Wanted 7.00 Greed 7.30 Popular 8.30 Beverly Hills 90210 9.30 Then Came You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11.15 Secret Lives of Men 12.45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8.00 E! Behind the Scenes *The Beach* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Paul Robeson* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Jean Carmen* 10:00 David Letterman Show
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Katapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Codename: Verano 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 PBA Moments	7.00 Fantasy Island 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11.15 The Explorer 12.45 MTV	4.30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Scream 3* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Paul Kelly* 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story *Freddie Prinze* 10.00 David Letterman Show
THU	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama *Kapitan Tumba* 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 700 Club 12:30 Word of Hope	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6.30 Be Seen @ MTV 7.00 Greed 7.30 Cineplex 23 *The Fly 2* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8.00 E! Behind the Scenes *Wonder Boys* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Ethel Merman* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Phil Hartman* 10:00 David Letterman Show
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Jullie 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Fushigi Yuugi 8:30 Bubble Gang 10:00 What Went Wrong 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 The Truth and Nothing But 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 The Color of Money 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Citiline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7.30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Hollow Man* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Harry James/Betty Grable* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Linda Sobek* 10:00 David Letterman Show

Religious festival honors the Santo Niño

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IN predominantly Christian Philippines, January is the month dedicated to the Christ Child.

For the past 21 years, members of the all-male Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus have held a religious festival consisting of a nine-day novena, masses, and a near month-long exhibit of various Santo Niño icons, capped by a grand procession of *carozzas*.

Icon

Bobby Valdomar, fondly called Daddy by some members, is one of the original founding fathers of the organization. He calls his icon Santo Niño del Cielo or the Callejero because the image is brought to various houses for worship.

The Christ Child wears a pure silver outfit made by long-time jeweler Rebullida from Spanish *peseta* coins. This is replaced by a silver-plated version when it leaves Bobby's house.

The narra altar of the Santo Niño de Violago chapel on E. Rodriguez ave., which is managed by the Congregacion, is all in gold, the color fit for a king, as its designer Antonio S. Adriano puts it.

Powerful sign

His Santo Niño has the powerful In Hoc Signo sign, meaning "With this sign, I thee conquer" on its wreath, which originated from Italy. It is a powerful invocation said to have been used successfully in the War of Constantinople.

(To be concluded)

TONY Adriano's Santo Niño originated from Italy.

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Promo period is from November 12, 2000 to January 15, 2001.
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 1059 series of 2000.

G Toengi makes a bold career move

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

MANY local actors dream of making it big in Hollywood but very few have actually done anything about it. They consider an international career an impossible dream and drop the idea even before they take the first step. Not Giselle Toengi.

New York

The young actress moved to New York more than a year ago to join the legions of hopefuls who believe that "if I can make it here, I'll make it anywhere." These hopefuls take all sorts of odd jobs to support themselves as they hop from one audition to the next and wait for their chance at stardom.

For now, G doesn't have to wait on tables or take orders at the McDonald's counter to pay for the rent. She has saved most of her earnings from her six-year stint in show business to finance her stay in the Big Apple. Part of that money is going to her team which includes an agent, an entertainment lawyer and a publicist. Her sister, who is based in New Jersey, has signed on as manager. That's how serious she is about hitting the big time.

Between auditions, G goes to acting classes, watches Broadway plays, takes yoga lessons – activities that will help her as an actress. Aside from going to auditions, she attends a lot of parties to meet show biz personalities who can help her out. Once, she was late for a movie premiere of the remastered version of "A Hard Day's Night" and found herself at the same table as Tim Robbins. She has also met Richard Gere, whom she found drop-dead gorgeous.

TV commercial

She got accepted for a TV commercial but she couldn't do it because her working papers were still being processed. Because of her Caucasian looks, she's been able to audition for many parts in soap operas and independent movies. She's even tried out for Latina roles.

Why New York and not Los Angeles, where most film and TV offices are?

"New York is a more vibrant place, it's more real. I get a natural high when I'm there," G gushes. For the first time in her life, she's living on her own in a modest apartment. All her life, she's always stayed with her mom.

In the Philippines, she's recognized everywhere, but in her new home, no one fusses over her and that's just fine. She finds it quite liberating and proudly states that she takes the subway to get around, in contrast to the Honda CRV which she uses in the Philippines.

G has not totally abandoned her local career. In fact, just recently, she moved over to Angeli Valenciano's Genesis, the same outfit that handles Gary V and Donita Rose. For the past three years, she's worked with Joji Dingcong.

TOENGI. Has saved most of her show biz earnings to finance her stay in the Big Apple.

"I felt there was so much more we could have done with my career. Joji and I weren't communicating properly, so I decided to move to Tita Angeli," G explains. She stresses that the transition wasn't rocky. She and Joji are still friends.

Corporate approach

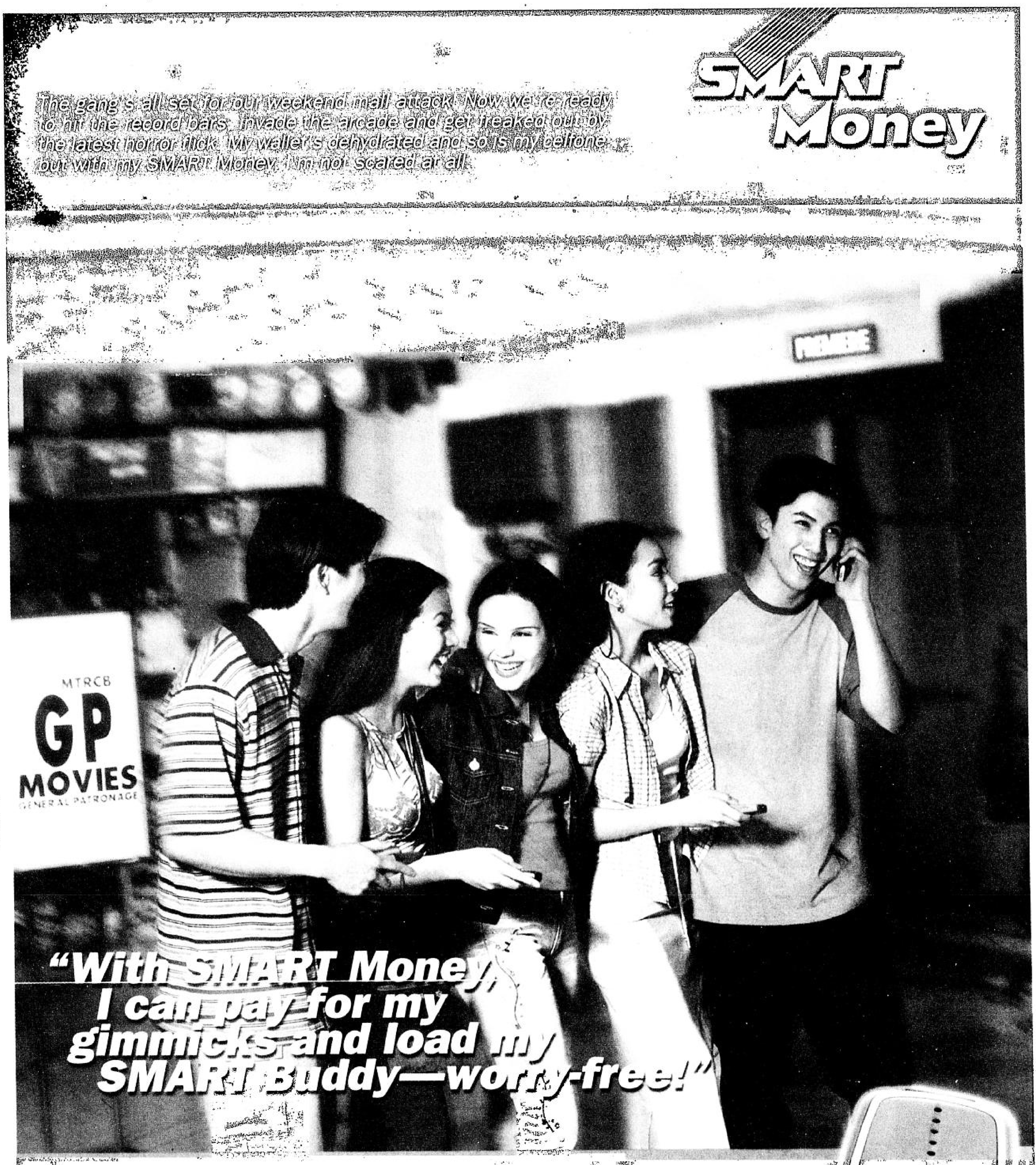
G was impressed when she called up Genesis recently and got a computer voice instructing her to press certain buttons to get connected to her party. Angeli stresses that Genesis uses the corporate approach with its talents, so that even if she is not available, there are other capable people in the office to take care of her talents' needs.

With G in her stable, Genesis now handles celebrity endorsers of two competing telecom companies. G appears in ads for Smart while Donita pushes Globe. Angeli doesn't see any conflict here and says she has made sure that Donita and G's accounts will not be handled by the same individual.

Similar career paths

Before she accepted G, Angeli made sure it was alright with Donita, since the two have similar career paths. In fact, there was a time when G got an offer to be an MTV VJ but she opted to stay in the country since there were more opportunities here for her.

G is aware that her move to New York is a long shot as far as success is concerned. However, she doesn't want to someday regret not making the move. "Even if I don't succeed, at least I tried. Besides, I'm only 22," she points out. Angeli adds that, in three years, G will only be 25 and can still resume her career in the Philippines.



The gang's all set for our weekend mall attack. Now we're ready to hit the record bars, invade the arcade and get freaked out by the latest horror flick. My wallet's dehydrated and so is my celfone, but with my SMART Money, I'm not scared at all.

"With SMART Money, I can pay for my gimmicks and load my SMART Buddy—worry-free!"

Whatever, wherever the gimmick, my friends and I will never run out of fun or celfone credits—even if we run out of cash. All we need is our SMART Money and our SMART celfones. From our celfones, we just load up our SMART Money cards through SMART Mobile Banking or at any SMART Money loading center. We use it in places that don't normally accept credit cards like fast food chains, arcades and movie houses. Not to mention all MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide.

What's more, with the SIM that powers our SMART Money, we can even enjoy fun and games!

Load it up. Live it up.

Activate your SMART Money MasterCard and we'll load it with

P200 FREE!

Spend it anyway you want!

Hurry! This offer is good only up to Jan. 31, 2001

PROMO MECHANICS

1. *If your SMART Buddy celfone came with the complete SMART Money MBS SIM and FREE SMART Money MasterCard, all you have to do is activate your SMART Money MasterCard.*
2. *If your SMART Buddy celfone already has the SMART Money MBS SIM card, just visit the nearest SMART Telecenter to get the SMART Money MasterCard for FREE by presenting your SMART Money MBS SIM card.*
3. ***HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR SMART MONEY MasterCard:***
   a. *Go to SMART MENU and select SMART MONEY.*
   b. *Key-in your 12-digit MCOM number (printed on your card) and press OK.*
   c. *Key in your default wireless PIN (W-PIN): 123456 and press OK.*
   d. *You will receive a confirmation message and be advised to change your W-PIN to activate your card.*
4. *All SMART Money MasterCards to be activated from January 10-31, 2001 shall be credited with Two Hundred Pesos (Php200.00) on the account 24 hours from activation.*
5. *Activation of the SMART Money MasterCard refers to the initialization of the SMART Money MasterCard with the SMART Mobile Phone prior to use as described in the SMART Money MasterCard User's Guide.*
6. *Once the Php200 value has been credited to his SMART Money MasterCard account, the cardholder will be notified via an SMS message in his SMART celfone regarding the credit of such.*
7. ***HOW TO USE YOUR SMART MONEY MasterCard:***
   Face-to-Face (in-store) Purchase
   a. *To make an in-store purchasing (face-to-face), just present your SMART Money MasterCard to the store cashier for payment of selected merchandise.*
   b. *Cashier swipes the SMART Money MasterCard in the POS terminal and keys in the purchase amount.*
   c. *If transaction is approved, message is sent to POS terminal and the sales slip is printed.*
   d. *Sign on the dotted line and you're off!*
   e. *You will receive a text confirmation of your transaction.*

   Non face-to-face (remote) Purchase
   a. *Call the store to order items, advise the order taker that you will be paying through SMART Money MasterCard.*
   b. *Give the order taker your 12-digit MCOM number.*
   c. *If transaction is validated, a payment request message is sent to your celfone.*
   d. *To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.*
   e. *System validates your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account is debited.*
   f. *You will receive a text message to acknowledge your transaction.*

   Transfer value to another SMART Money MasterCard
   a. *Go to SMART MENU and select SMART MONEY.*
   b. *From SMART MONEY menu, click on TRANSFER.*
   c. *Key in the 12-digit MCOM number of the recipient party and press OK.*
   d. *Select a preset amount and press OK.*
   e. *Key in your W-PIN and press OK.*
   f. *The SMART Money MasterCard system verifies your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money MasterCard funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account will then be debited and the value is transferred to the recipient.*
   g. *Both you and the recipient will receive a text message confirming the amount successfuly transferred and your updated balances.*
8. *Only one (1) SMART Money MasterCard may be activated with a specific SMART Money MBS SIM card.*
9. *Cardholders who avail of two or more SMART Money MBS SIMs may be provided with the same number of SMART Money MasterCards. In such cases, they may activate all cards and qualify to avail more than once.*
10. *The FREE Php 200 promo does not apply to SMART Money MasterCard Extension cardholders, whose cards are issued on behalf of the Principal cardholder and may not in any manner be linked to the SMART celfone.*
11. *Promo period is valid until January 31, 2001.*
12. *SMART Communications and FIRST e-Bank reserves the right not to credit the Php200 amount to SMART Money MasterCard accounts it deems unfit, such as but not limited to, stolen/lost cards.*

Per DTI-NCR permit # 0015. Series of 2001.

All I need to know about my SMART Money

why should I get one?

because I want a cash card that lets me reload my celfone and shop from anywhere, hassle-free!

With SMART Money, you can conveniently reload your SMART Buddy celfone airtime & text credits & even shop for whatever you want with just a few clicks on your celfone.

because I don't want to stand in line for cash.

No ATMs needed. Your money comes to you. Using your celfone, you can transfer cash from your mobile bank account right into your SMART Money.

because I need total security.

Your actual cash is secured by the SMART Money system that complies with MasterCard standards. You might lose your card, but never your money.

because I control my spending.

Know exactly where your money goes. With SMART Money and your celfone, you can monitor your card balance and track your purchases.

because I want to shop anywhere.

Use your SMART Money in places that don't accept credit cards and in all MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide.

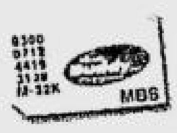
because I want to have fun.

Now, you can shop in bazaars, play in arcades & watch your favorite movies with SMART Money!

how do I get my SMART Money?

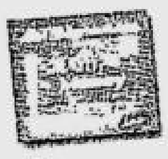
Both the SMART Money SIM and cash card come free with the purchase of a new SMART celfone kit.

If you're already a SMART GSM subscriber, you can check if your SIM card supports SMART Money. Just look for this MBS marking at the back of the SIM:



If you already have an MBS SIM, simply fill out the SMART Money info sheet at any SMART Telecenter and get your SMART Money Card for FREE.

For all other GSM subscribers, you can get the SMART Money Card free when you upgrade to a SMART MBS SIM Card for only P990. Simply look for this package at any authorized SMART dealer:



SMART Money works with a phase 2 plus celfone. To find out whether your handset is a phase 2 plus celfone, just call SMART Money Hotline at 845-7777, visit any SMART Telecenter or click the SMART website at www.smart.com.ph.

NO NEED TO APPLY!

SMART Money's unique celfone and cash card linkage lets you enjoy all these with just a few clicks from your SMART celfone! It's simply the most convenient way to pay!

SMART Money

how do I use my SMART Money?

TO ENJOY YOUR SMART MONEY FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:

How do I activate my cash card?

step 1
Go to SMART MENU and select SMART MONEY.

step 2
Key in your 12-digit MCOM number found on your SMART Money card and press OK.

step 3
Key in your default W-PIN (123456) and press OK.

step 4
You will receive a confirmation message and be advised to change your W-PIN to protect your SMART Money.

How do I load cash into my SMART Money?

To reload over the counter:

step 1
You can put any amount in your SMART Money card through SMART Money Loading Centers.

step 2
Upon receiving cash, the cashier swipes your card and gives you a transaction record.

step 3
Now your SMART Money is loaded and you're ready to go! For maximum reloading convenience, use your celfone to load cash in your SMART Money card straight from your Mobile Bank Account.

How do I load airtime and text credits on my SMART Buddy celfone?

step 1
Go to the SMART MENU and select SMART BUDDY.

step 2
Select RELOAD and press OK.

step 3
If you want to reload your own SMART Buddy celfone, select MY BUDDY and press OK. If you want to reload another celfone, select OTHERS, key in the recipient's SMART Buddy celfone number and press OK.

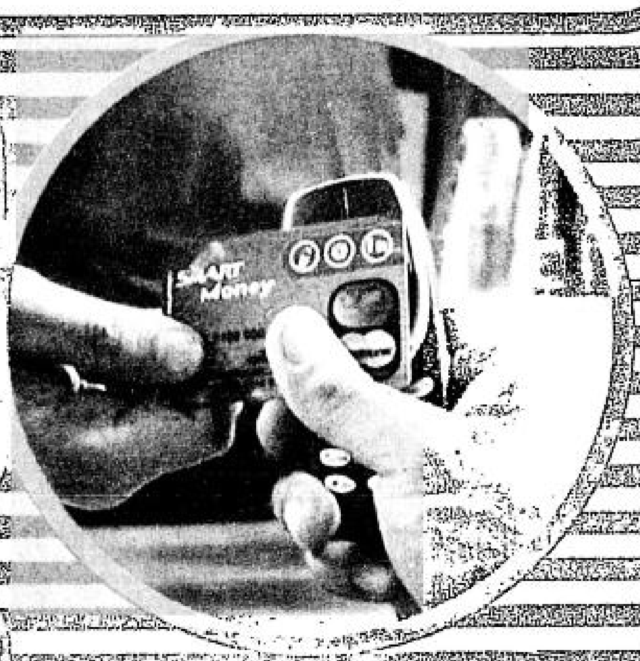
step 4
Key in your W-PIN and press OK.

step 5
You and the recipient will receive a text message confirming the amount successfully loaded.

how do I make a purchase?

Your card must be activated and loaded with cash value before it can be used to purchase goods and services. Simply present your SMART Money to the cashier. The cashier swipes your SMART Money and you'll receive a sales slip. Sign it, and you're off!

For deliveries, simply call the store, place your orders and give your MCOM number. You'll then receive a text message to confirm your purchase. Authorize your transaction with your W-PIN and you're done!



Mobile Banking + SMART Money. The future of payment.

Enjoy the full convenience of SMART Money with SMART's Mobile Banking service. When your SMART Money card is supported by SMART Mobile Banking, you can load cash value into your SMART Money—right from your celfone! It's like having your own personal ATM—anytime, anywhere!

how do I load SMART Money thru SMART Mobile Banking?

You have to be a registered Mobile Banking depositor of any of the member banks in the SMART Mobile Banking Service.

1. Using a SMART GSM celfone, go to SMART Menu and select SMART Money.
2. Click Reload.
3. Choose an amount.
4. Key-in the M-PIN code of your Mobile Bank account.
5. You will receive a text confirmation and you're done!

The SMART Mobile Banking Service members are: 1st e-Bank, Dao Heng Bank, East West Bank, Equitable-PCI Bank, Export & Industry Bank, Global Bank, International Exchange Bank, Metrobank, Planters Development Bank, Premiere Development Bank and Union Bank.

Ask your bank about Mobile Banking for SMART Money reloading now!

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You will never shop alone again! With your new SMART Money SIM comes your own virtual pet that you can take everywhere.

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Personalize your SMART Money card & you can join the Rewards Program. Earn points and exchange these for [illegible]

Grab your SMART Money now!

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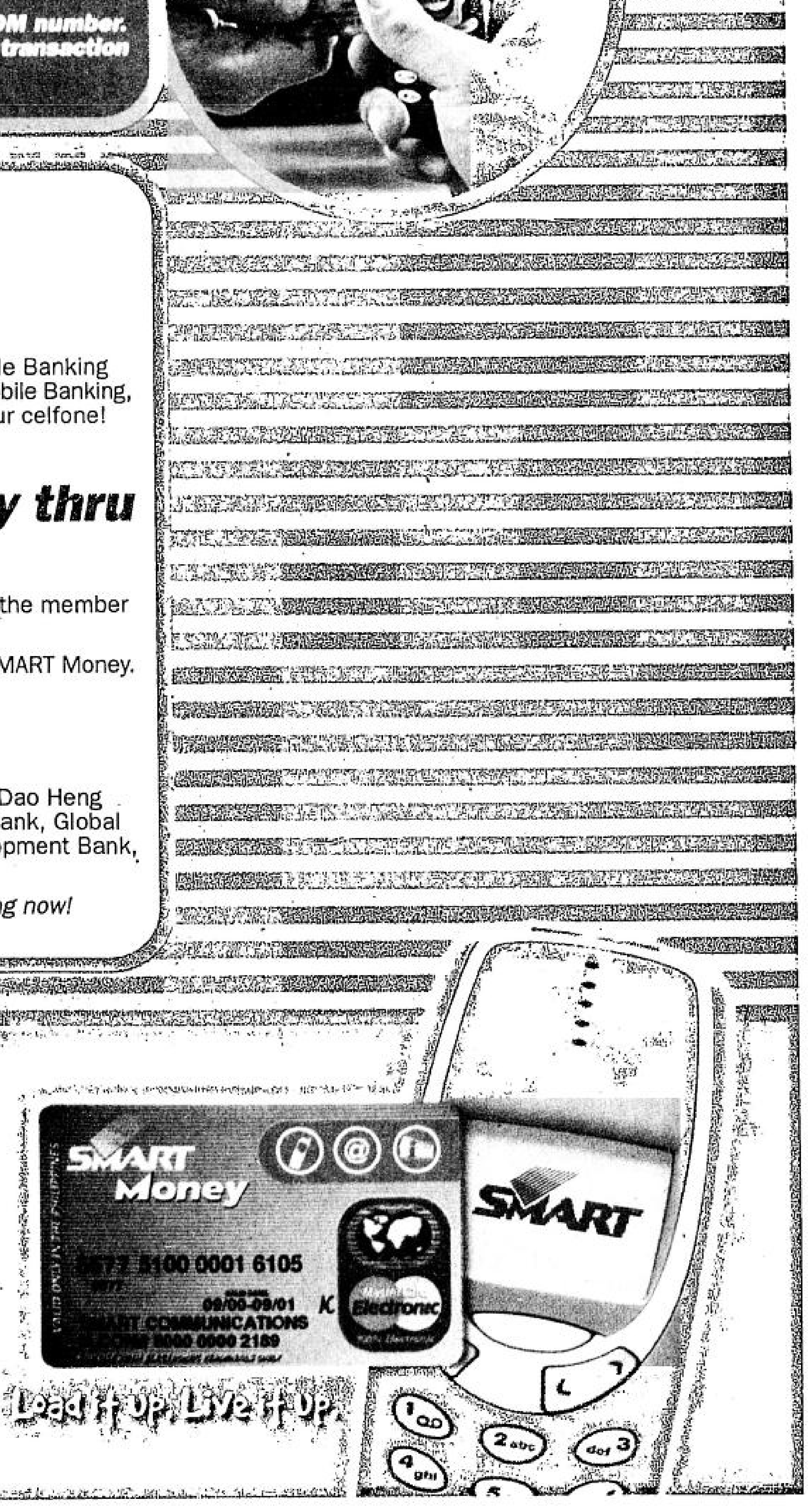
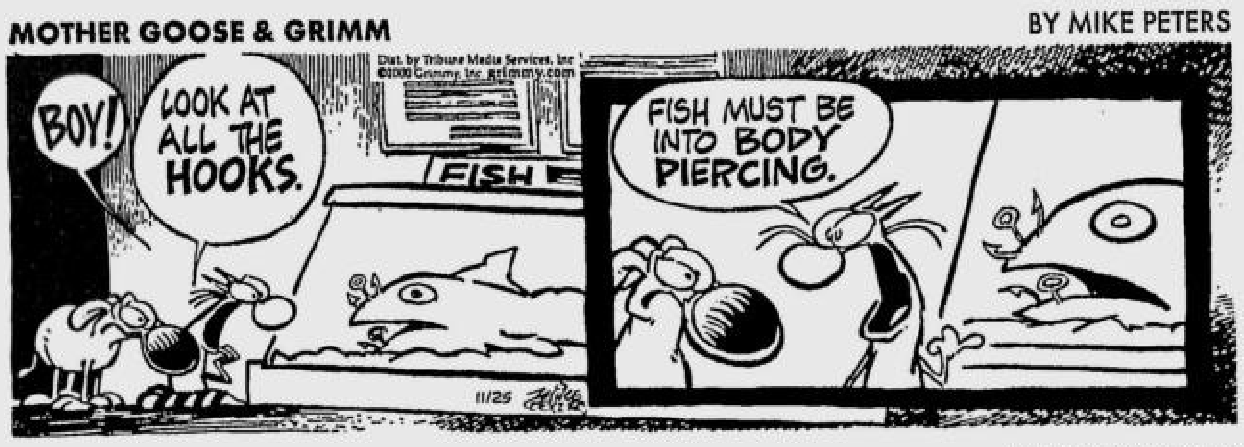


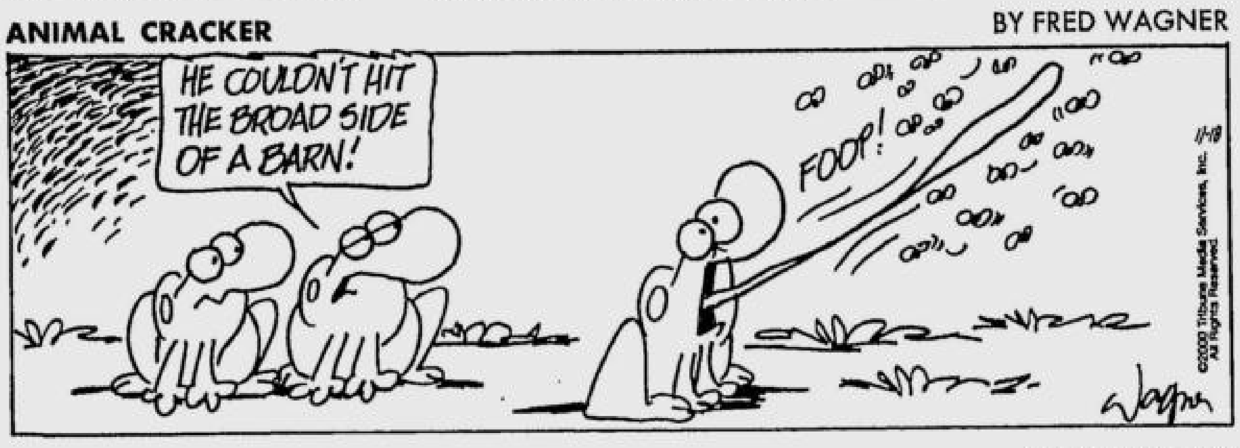
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


BOY!
LOOK AT ALL THE HOOKS.
FISH
FISH MUST BE INTO BODY PIERCING.
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2000 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
11/25

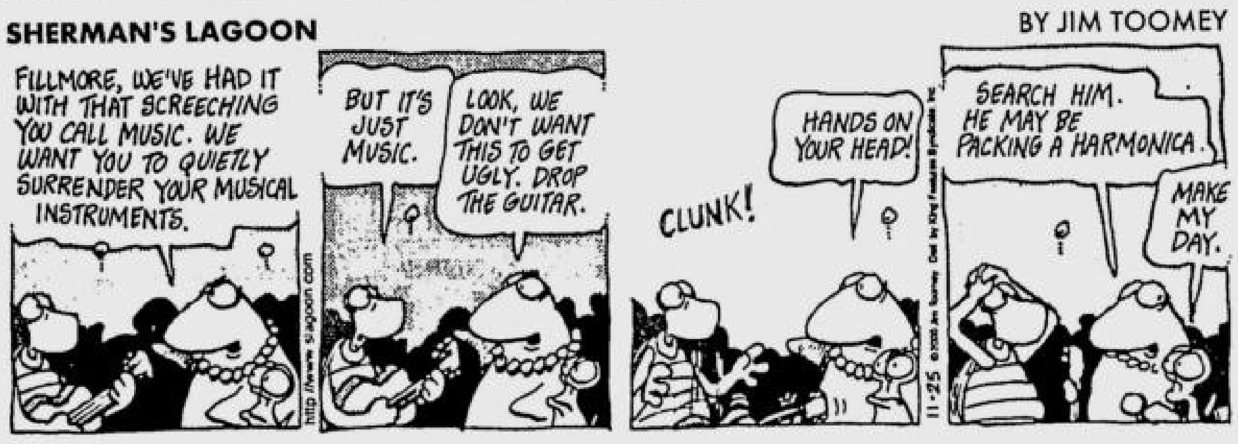
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


HE COULDN'T HIT THE BROAD SIDE OF A BARN!
FOOP!
©2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
1/18
Wagner

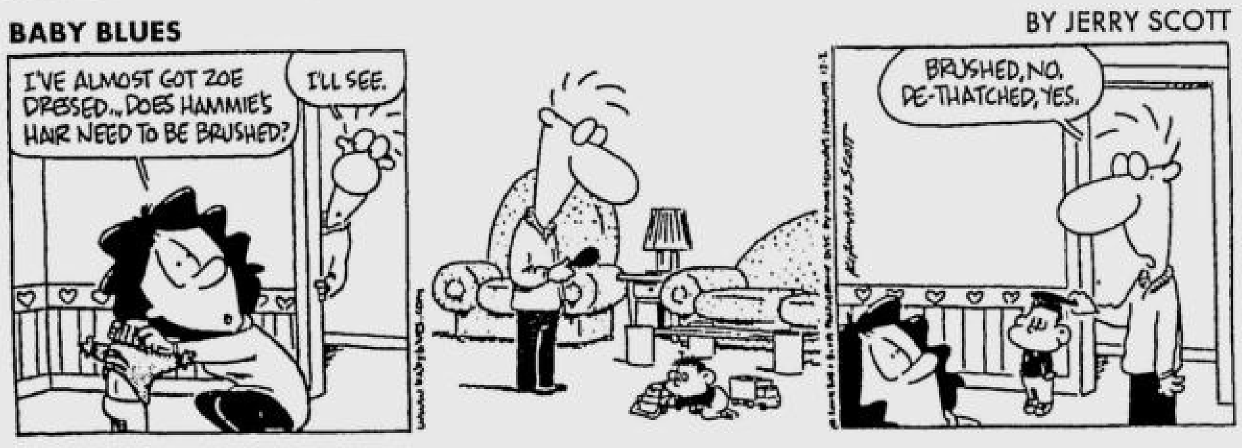
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, WE'VE HAD IT WITH THAT SCREECHING YOU CALL MUSIC. WE WANT YOU TO QUIETLY SURRENDER YOUR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.
BUT IT'S JUST MUSIC.
LOOK, WE DON'T WANT THIS TO GET UGLY. DROP THE GUITAR.
CLUNK!
HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!
SEARCH HIM. HE MAY BE PACKING A HARMONICA.
MAKE MY DAY.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-25

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'VE ALMOST GOT ZOE DRESSED... DOES HAMMIE'S HAIR NEED TO BE BRUSHED?
I'LL SEE.
BRUSHED, NO. DE-THATCHED, YES.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Stack, Penelope Ann Miller, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Richard Moll, Gianni Morbidelli, Ron Goular

Happy Birthday: Be practical, and you will end up having far more choices this year. Don't try to do everything; set priorities and stick to them. Be disciplined and focus, and everything will turn out just the way you want. You will experience plenty of intrigue along the way, which will lead you down some unusual and entertaining avenues. Your numbers: 5, 29, 32, 35, 47, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be in the mood to make improvements in your environment. Take a look at your home and figure out ways to make things better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Passionate encounters will be overpowering. Travel will lead to adventure and new friendships. You may want to do a little research about subjects that interest your new acquaintances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You should be putting in a few hours at work even if it is your day off. You have too much on your plate and can't take the chance that you won't meet your deadline.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make plans to do things that will require energy. You can become involved in sports or help children with their projects. Don't waste time; get yourself in gear and do as much as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Property investments appear to be prosperous. Take the time to drive around and check out some of the possibilities. You may also want to look into making changes to your own residence. You will raise the value of your home if you add a few extras.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Relationships will be magnetic today. Be sure to make romantic plans for two. You will be able to make commitments concerning your emotional intentions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should watch your dietary habits today. Too much of anything may lead to stomach problems. Don't be too quick to judge those who have made wrong choices.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your creative endeavors must be exploited. You can get along well with children and should take time out to help them with their projects. Short trips will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should concentrate on making your personal environment the best that it can be. You will have a much better outlook if you are content with your surroundings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Relationships appear to be pretty hot today. Be sure to make special plans for you and your loved one. You need to spend some time alone. Decisions must be made together.

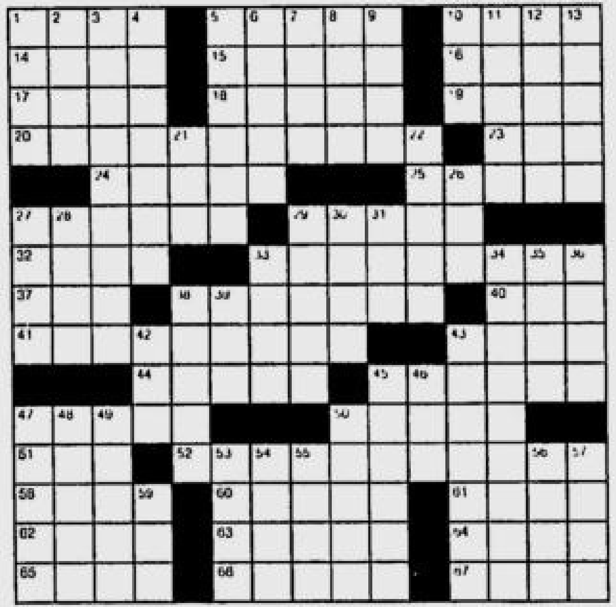
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let your own depression stand in the way of making the necessary changes in your home. You need to put a little effort into improving your own self-image.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have the energy to complete those creative projects that have been sitting on the back burner. Get your mate to help you and show your appreciation by treating him or her to a romantic dinner.

Birthday Baby: Your creative mind will lead you down many different pathways throughout your life. You are imaginative, intelligent and very good at expressing yourself honestly and precisely.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
11/30/00

ACROSS
1 Eurasian vipers
5 Until now
10 "Lucy Crown" author Irwin
14 Fellow
15 Astound
16 Forum wear
17 Actress Garr
18 Firmly fixed
19 Mongols' tent
20 Start of Evan Esar quote
23 Born in Brest
24 Bowlers' milieu
25 Church leader
27 Jots
29 Crossbeam
32 Lofty
33 Part 2 of quote
37 Explorer Johnson
38 Theater projection
40 Assistance
41 Part 3 of quote
43 __ Domini
44 Really angry
45 Moneylender
47 Requirements
50 Italian noble
51 Along in years
52 End of quote
58 Gymnast Korbut
60 Looks suggestively
61 Amusement park thrill
62 Germ
63 Tenant's contract
64 Cruising
65 Make/meet connector
66 French after
67 Marvel superhero-group

DOWN
1 Proceedings
2 Noah's eldest son
3 Law office assistant
4 Popeye's power source
5 Mouths off
6 Portents
7 Destiny
8 Black Sea arm
9 Clair or Coty
10 Pig's pad
11 Pursue relentlessly
12 Come to terms
13 Irrigate
21 John Hancock medium?
22 Ziegfeld Follies, e.g.
26 "__ Miserables"
27 Worn out
28 Tilting tower town
29 Plumed velvet cap
30 Sound defeat
31 An honest man?
33 Fox chaser?
34 Expression of a New Englander
35 Fork part
36 Smell
38 Fen
39 Arab robe
42 Presley movie, "__ Galahad"
43 Fatal bacterial disease
45 CEOs
46 Even one
47 Hangman's loop
48 Actress Barkin
49 Advanced gradually
50 Blaspheme
53 Earthen crock
54 Cry
55 Grizzly __
56 __ fixe (obsession)
57 Connery or Lennon
59 Want

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	A	G	A	S	■	A	H	A	B	■	S	H	A	W
P	R	I	M	P	■	P	O	L	O	■	T	O	G	A
A	M	A	T	I	■	A	L	A	N	■	I	R	A	S
S	Y	N	■	C	A	R	D	I	N	A	L	S	I	N
■	■	T	R	E	N	T	■	■	E	X	T	E	N	T
O	B	S	E	S	S	■	F	A	T	E	■	■	■	■
D	O	T	E	■	E	T	O	N	■	S	C	R	A	M
O	N	E	S	■	L	Y	I	N	G	■	H	E	R	A
R	O	P	E	S	■	P	L	E	A	■	I	D	L	Y
■	■	■	■	O	R	E	S	■	M	A	R	C	O	S
B	I	L	L	I	E	■	■	T	A	M	P	A	■	■
R	O	Y	A	L	F	A	M	I	L	Y	■	R	N	A
A	N	O	N	■	O	R	A	L	■	T	A	P	I	N
W	I	N	D	■	R	E	A	D	■	A	G	E	N	T
L	A	S	S	■	M	A	M	E	■	N	O	T	E	S

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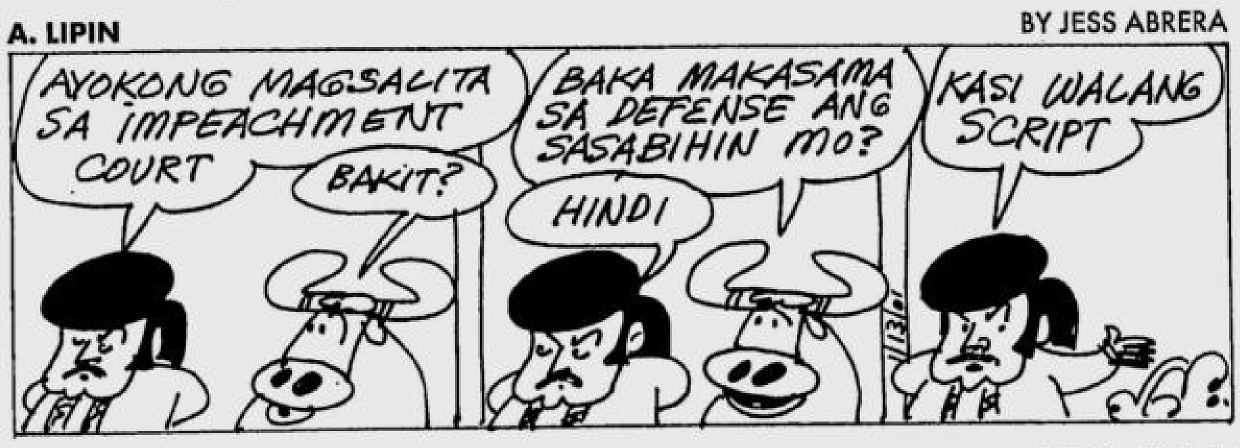
11/30/00

ANSWER ON MONDAY

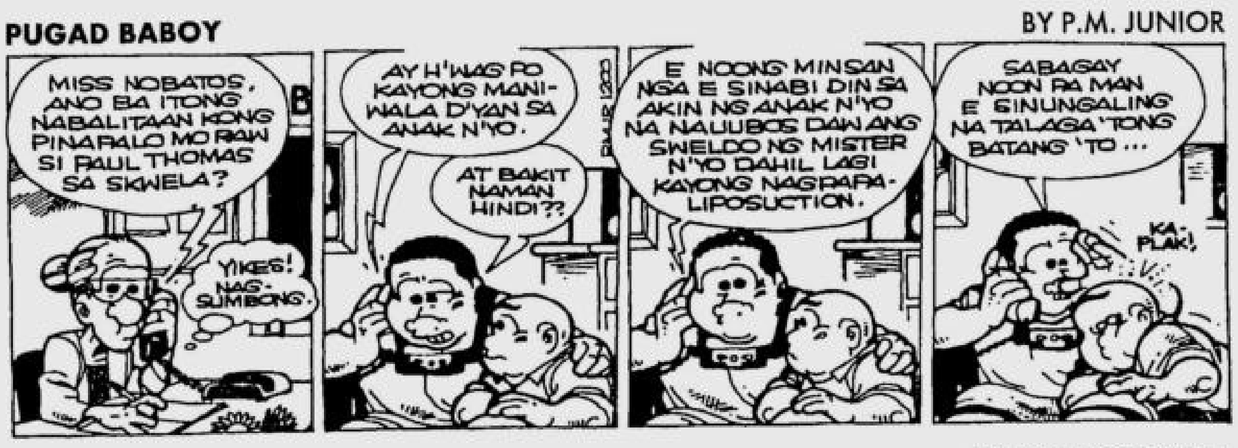
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AYOKONG MAGSALITA SA IMPEACHMENT COURT
BAKIT?
BAKA MAKASAMA SA DEFENSE ANG SASABIHIN MO?
HINDI
KASI WALANG SCRIPT
1/13/01

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MISS NOBATOS, ANO BA ITONG NABALITAAN KONG PINAPALO MO RAW SI PAUL THOMAS SA SKWELA?
YIKES! NAG-SUMBONG.
AY H'WAG PO KAYONG MANIWALA D'YAN SA ANAK N'YO.
AT BAKIT NAMAN HINDI??
E NOONG MINSAN NGA E SINABI DIN SA AKIN NG ANAK N'YO NA NAUUBOS DAW ANG SWELDO NG MISTER N'YO DAHIL LAGI KAYONG NAGPAPA-LIPOSUCTION.
SABAGAY NOON PA MAN E SINUNGALING NA TALAGA 'TONG BATANG 'TO...
KA-PLAK!
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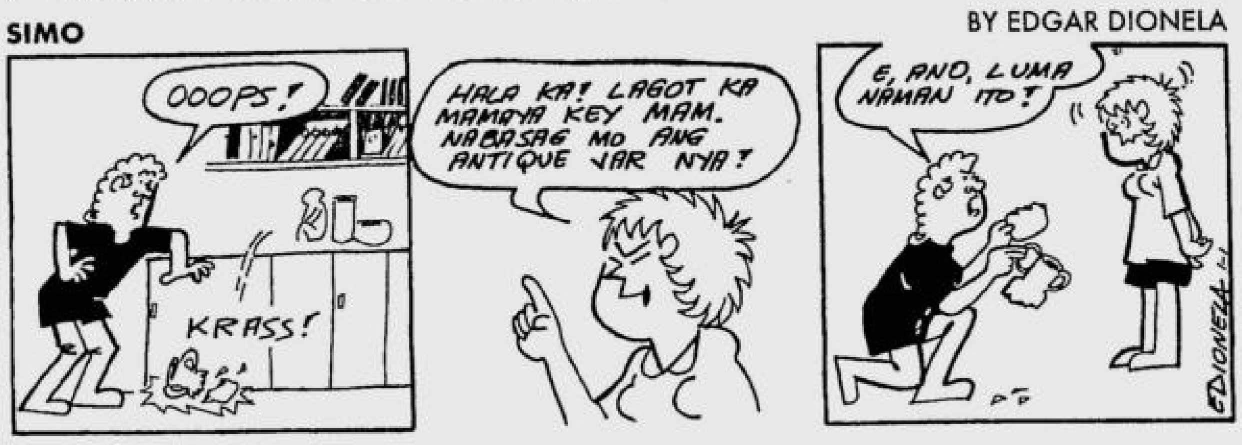
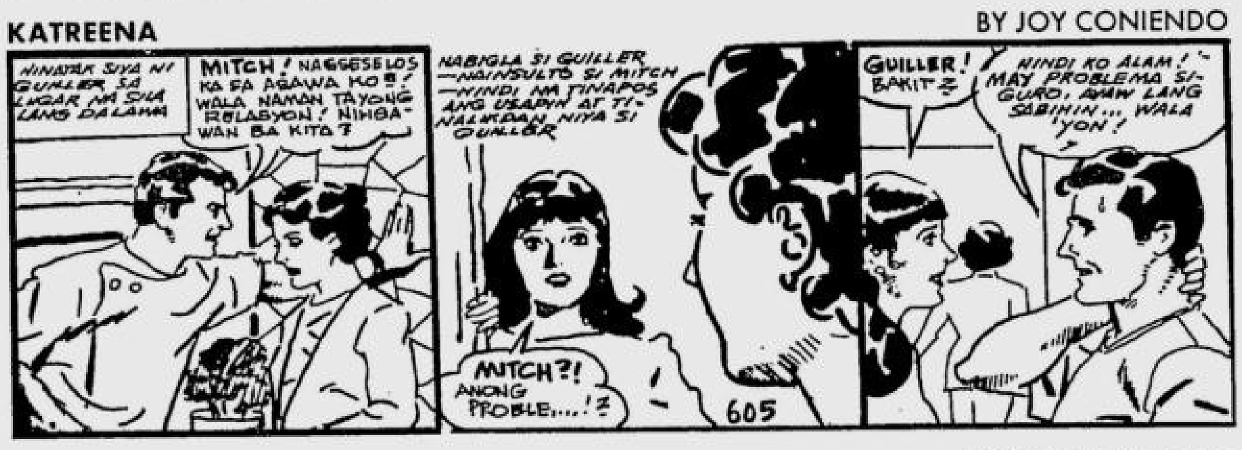
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


OOOPS!
KRASS!
HALA KA! LAGOT KA MAMAYA KEY MAM. NABASAG MO ANG ANTIQUE JAR NYA!
E, ANO, LUMA NAMAN ITO!
EDIONELA

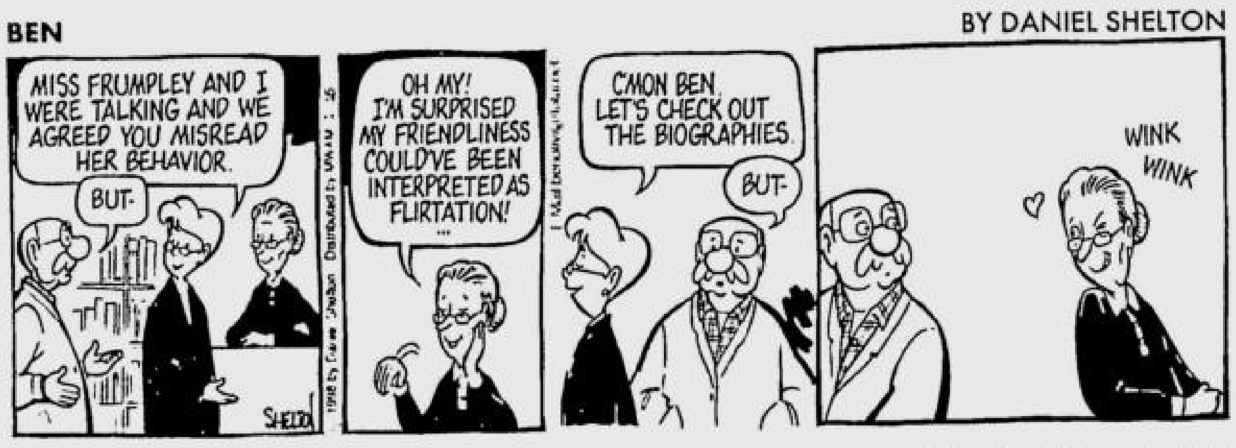
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


HINAYAK SIYA NI GUILLER SA LUGAR NA SILA LANG DALAWA
MITCH! NAGSESELOS KA SA ASAWA KO?! WALA NAMAN TAYONG RELASYON! NINIBAWAN BA KITA?
NABIGLA SI GUILLER —NAINSULTO SI MITCH —HINDI NA TINAPOS ANG USAPIN AT TINALIKDAN NIYA SI GUILLER
MITCH?! ANONG PROBLE....!?
605
GUILLER! BAKIT?
HINDI KO ALAM! MAY PROBLEMA SIGURO, AYAW LANG SABIHIN... WALA 'YON!

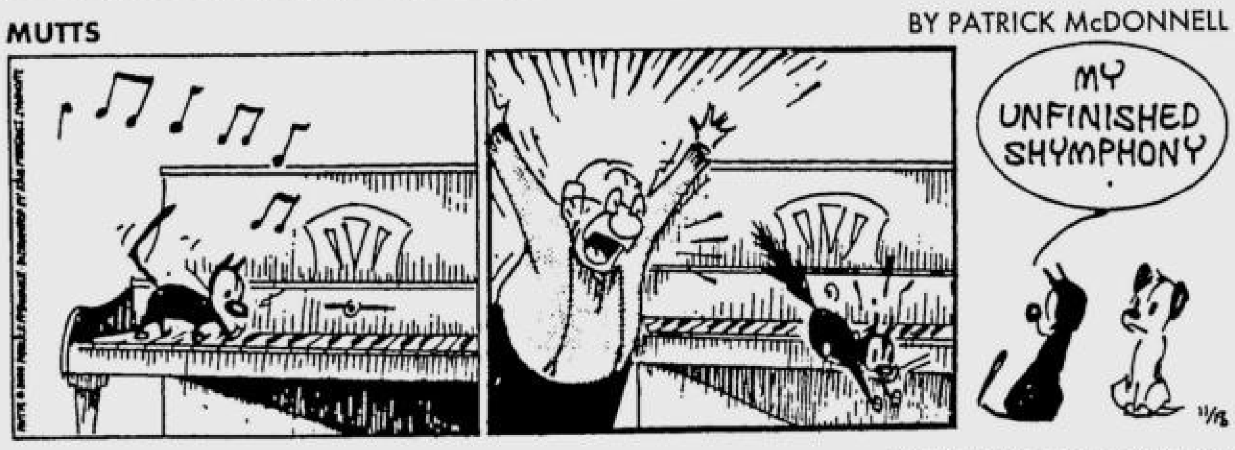
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MISS FRUMPLEY AND I WERE TALKING AND WE AGREED YOU MISREAD HER BEHAVIOR.
BUT-
SHELTON
OH MY! I'M SURPRISED MY FRIENDLINESS COULD'VE BEEN INTERPRETED AS FLIRTATION!
...
C'MON BEN. LET'S CHECK OUT THE BIOGRAPHIES.
BUT-
WINK
WINK

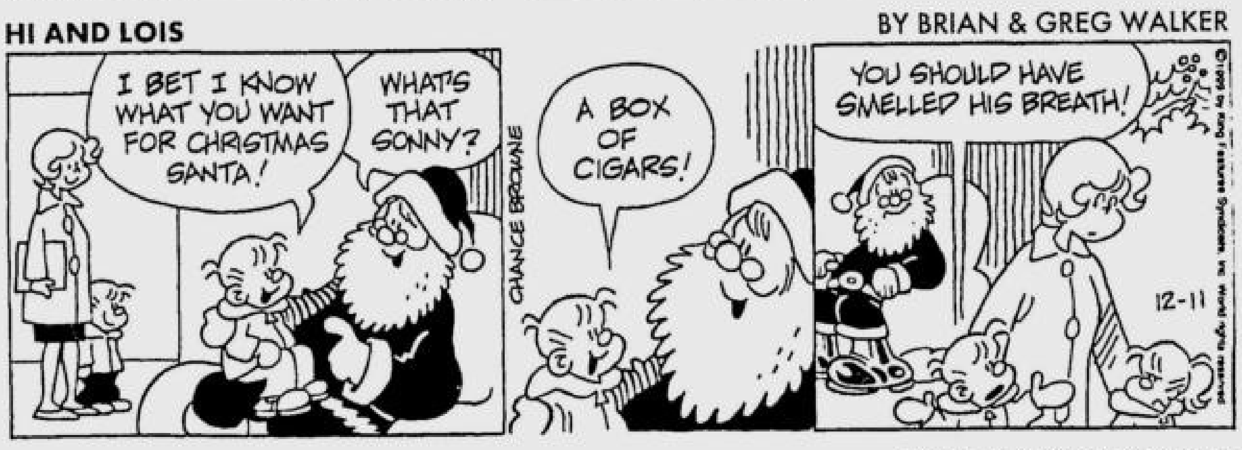
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MY UNFINISHED SHYMPHONY
11/18

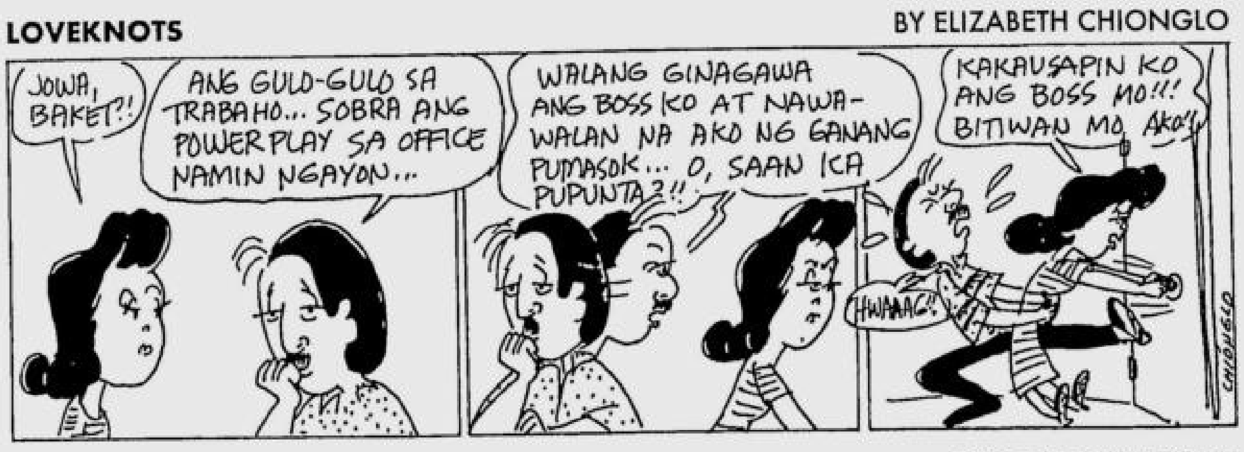
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I BET I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS SANTA!
WHAT'S THAT SONNY?
CHANCE BROWNE
A BOX OF CIGARS!
YOU SHOULD HAVE SMELLED HIS BREATH!
12-11

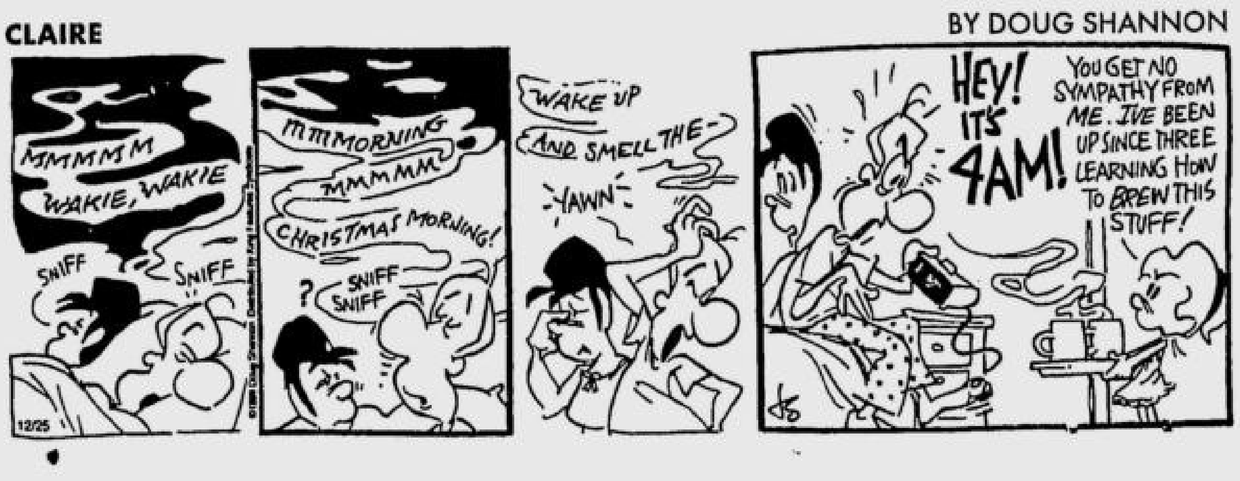
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, BAKET?!
ANG GULO-GULO SA TRABAHO... SOBRA ANG POWERPLAY SA OFFICE NAMIN NGAYON...
WALANG GINAGAWA ANG BOSS KO AT NAWAWALAN NA AKO NG GANANG PUMASOK... O, SAAN KA PUPUNTA?!!
KAKAUSAPIN KO ANG BOSS MO!!! BITIWAN MO AKO!
HWAAAG!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


MMMMMM
WAKIE, WAKIE
SNIFF
SNIFF
12/25
MMMORNING
MMMMMM
CHRISTMAS MORNING!
?
SNIFF SNIFF
WAKE UP
AND SMELL THE-
YAWN
HEY! IT'S 4AM!
YOU GET NO SYMPATHY FROM ME. I'VE BEEN UP SINCE THREE LEARNING HOW TO BREW THIS STUFF!

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Paolo Bediones, television chameleon

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

PAOLO Bediones can blend in with just about anybody. He can be glib and animated with Lyn Ching on "S-Files" and be straightforward and formal with Miriam Quiambao on "Extra, Extra!"

He wanted to be a corporate executive or lawyer but he found himself modelling instead. His first try as an MTV VJ was a big disappointment but he didn't regret the move. "I knew I liked talking and I was a sponge for information so I tried hosting," Paolo recalls.

The downside of being seen on TV everyday is that he can't keep wearing the same clothes. But he doesn't have a routine because every day is different. "I like it that way because it keeps me on my toes. I don't think I could survive if my life were predictable. I don't know what's going to happen next. I concentrate on improving myself because deep inside, I'm trying to deserve to be where I am," Paolo sheepishly admits.

His down-to-earth and humble attitude in relation to his success makes him accessible to the masses. He acts and talks like a regular guy. He doesn't take himself seriously and he doesn't mind being criticized.

"Before, I grabbed every project that came my way because I was still trying to develop a sense of what it means to work a lot.

"Since 1996, I've been able to do every possible TV format. Being a quizmaster on 'Digital LG Quiz' was one of my dreams but hosting the Binibining Pilipinas was my ultimate dream! Being on 'S-Files' has allowed me to interview Lou Diamond Phillips, Pierce Brosnan and other stars. But I won't do anything that goes against my values," he declares.

Fame has slowly found him and he claims he doesn't have a 'private' life anymore. "It's my duty as a TV person to entertain. Even if I'm not in front of the camera, I have to be approachable. *Sabi nila, mawawala ang* mystery *ko*. But it's not about mystery anymore, it's about connecting with people and making them happy. In some way, I want to affect people's lives."

He describes himself as "*mababaw*" because just watching movies at home already makes him happy.

BEDIONES. Wants to affect people's lives.

Film Year 2000's best

(Conclusion)

Outstanding lead performances (female)

1. Lorna Tolentino, "Sugatang Puso"
2. Alessandra da Rossi, "Azucena"
3. Vilma Santos, "Anak"
4. Maricel Soriano, "Abandonada"
5. Gloria Romero, "Tanging Yaman"
6. Lorna Tolentino, "Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga"
7. Angel Aquino, "Laro sa Baga"

Outstanding support performances (male)

1. Jeffrey Quizon, "Markova"
2. Ed Rocha, "Bayaning Third World"
3. John Arcilla, "Biyaheng Langit"
4. Baron Geisler, "Anak"
5. Bembol Roco, "Biyaheng Langit"
6. Eric Quizon, "Markova"
7. Jericho Rosales, "Tanging Yaman"
8. Pen Medina, "Deathrow"
9. Spanky Manikan, "Deathrow"
10. Chaning Carlos, "Markova"
11. Ray Ventura, "Deathrow"
12. Johnny Delgado, "Tanging Yaman"
13. Nanding Josef, "Deathrow"
14. Koko Trinidad, "Lagarista"

Outstanding support performances (female)

1. Cherie Gil, "Sugatang Puso"
2. Rio Locsin, "Bayaning Third World"
3. Gigette Reyes, "Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga"
4. "Monique Wilson, "Laro sa Baga"
5. Robin Von Wright, "Pangarap ng Puso"
6. Dina Bonnevie, "Tanging Yaman"
7. Daria Ramirez, "Bayaning Third World"
8. Gina Alajar, "Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga"
9. Claudine Barretto, "Anak"
10. Lara Fabregas, "Bayaning Third World"
11. Cherry Pie Picache, "Bayaning Third World"
12. Amy Austria, "Anak"
13. Cherry Pie Picache, "Anak"

THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

New screenwriters share their traumatic experiences

By Nestor U. Torre

MY piece last week on the sad lot of TV-movie scriptwriters in the Philippines got immediate feedback from a number of writers, many of whom revealed that, if anything, the situation is even worse than how I had described it!

Fresh blood

Note that these are young screenwriters who have been urged to enter the industry because it needs the "fresh blood" that the likes of them can provide.

Yes, the industry officially welcomes them with open arms, but the harsh reality is, some people in that industry do everything they can to make life miserable for new screenwriters, hoping that they will fail and drop out of the TV-movie game.

It's a tribute to the determination of these new writers that most of them are still in there, punching away, and that some of them have in fact become very successful, despite the efforts of some people to pull them down.

Slings and arrows

What are the slings and arrows of outrageous intrigue and *sulutan* that they've survived? Let's hear it from them:

"When I was hired to write my first movie script for a big studio, I was thrilled—but I soon had a bad case of culture shock. Even after the producer had approved my material, there were many meetings during which *everybody* present could suggest all sorts of changes, many of them quite subjective—until I could no longer recognize the story that was the end product of all of those 'contributions.'

"Why didn't I object? I did, but the people who spoke up at those meetings were bigwigs, and I lacked the clout to match theirs.

Second project

"The good thing was, my first movie made money, so I was immediately assigned a second project. I had a louder voice then, since I was officially deemed 'promising,' so they pushed me around less the second time around."

Another young writer speaks up: "You think you had it bad? Get a load of my experience: When I wrote for a TV drama, we had such a lazy director. He was already taping the show, and yet he had not even read the script! *Nagpapakuwento siya ng istorya habang nagte*-taping!

"As a result, he got a number of plot and character points wrong, and he had to re-tape an entire sequence because his approach had been so obviously wrong.

Big name

"Why does the producer allow these things to happen? Either he doesn't care that much for the show, or the director has a big name and people hesitate to censure him. But, pity the poor writer whose script gets mangled by lazy directors!"

"Yes," says a third writer, "some directors really make life miserable for writers. *My* director likes springing awesome 'surprises' on writers. One time, my TV script had already been approved by the producer, but the night before the taping day, the director demanded a number of *major* revisions. I didn't sleep the whole night to do those big changes."

Own script

Another tale of woe: "I wrote a script for a movie commissioned by a bigtime producer, who approved what I wrote. Then, the director was called in—and he brought along his own script to the meeting! Naturally, since he had a big name, it was *his* script that was used instead of mine, despite the fact that the producer had already given the go-signal for my screenplay to be filmed."

Good find for foodies

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

DOZENS of restaurants are rapidly sprouting all over the Libís area. Equally fast is the closure of many others that just "didn't make it." With the mushrooming of all these eateries, it is close to impossible to try each one. I would not only end up a 600 lb. foodie (didn't use 400 cuz there are a few out there—*baka magalit*), and flat broke, at that.

Tips

So, like with the movies I go to (I enjoyed "Meet the Parents"), I rely on tips from friends whose taste I trust. I have received and given tips to a handful who have cursed me. I in turn have wished that some of my bad tipsters would be stuck in traffic at noon on a Friday, payday, Christmas season, midnight madness with a busted air conditioner in Makati!

But Rodito Albano and I do not wish ill of each other. An invitation to one of the restaurants along Libis had to be given special time. We headed for Cena along E. Rodriguez blvd. (between Don Henrico's and Aji Ichiban).

Food lover

The place is beautifully decorated and has a nice ambiance. This is one of the few nice restaurants around Quezon City. Chef is a food lover who went to the California Culinary Academy. Before this venture, he worked at a restaurant along the Morato area that got raves for its good food.

Rod's stomach is down to his knees, but his colleague Rimpy's is even lower. This guy can eat! They ordered practically everything on the menu.

I started with the scallops au gratin—quite tasty! I also had a piece of Rod's crunchy foie gras, which was good but I felt it could even be better with a different fruit sauce.

Succulence

I particularly enjoyed the sargeant fish, something only this place has. It is served with a simple lemon butter sauce to enhance the succulence of the filet.

The filet of grouper with a basil cream sauce on top of a bed of mashed potatoes is also worth a try. My main course was the Filet of Salmon on top of some asparagus risotto with some bearnaise sauce on the side. That was good, too.

The presentations are striking. This could make a good seafood restaurant. The other items, I plan to come back for.

Rod and I have many things in common, and Cena is one of them. Find out if you're on our side—check out the place!

Happy eating!

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AMW-210LM with CRS and Dual Wave System

C.R.S. Concave Reflex System The Concave Reflex System utilizes a dual multi-wave system that distributes microwaves evenly and concave reflectors to concentrate those microwaves on the food. The result is evenly cooked dishes in less time.

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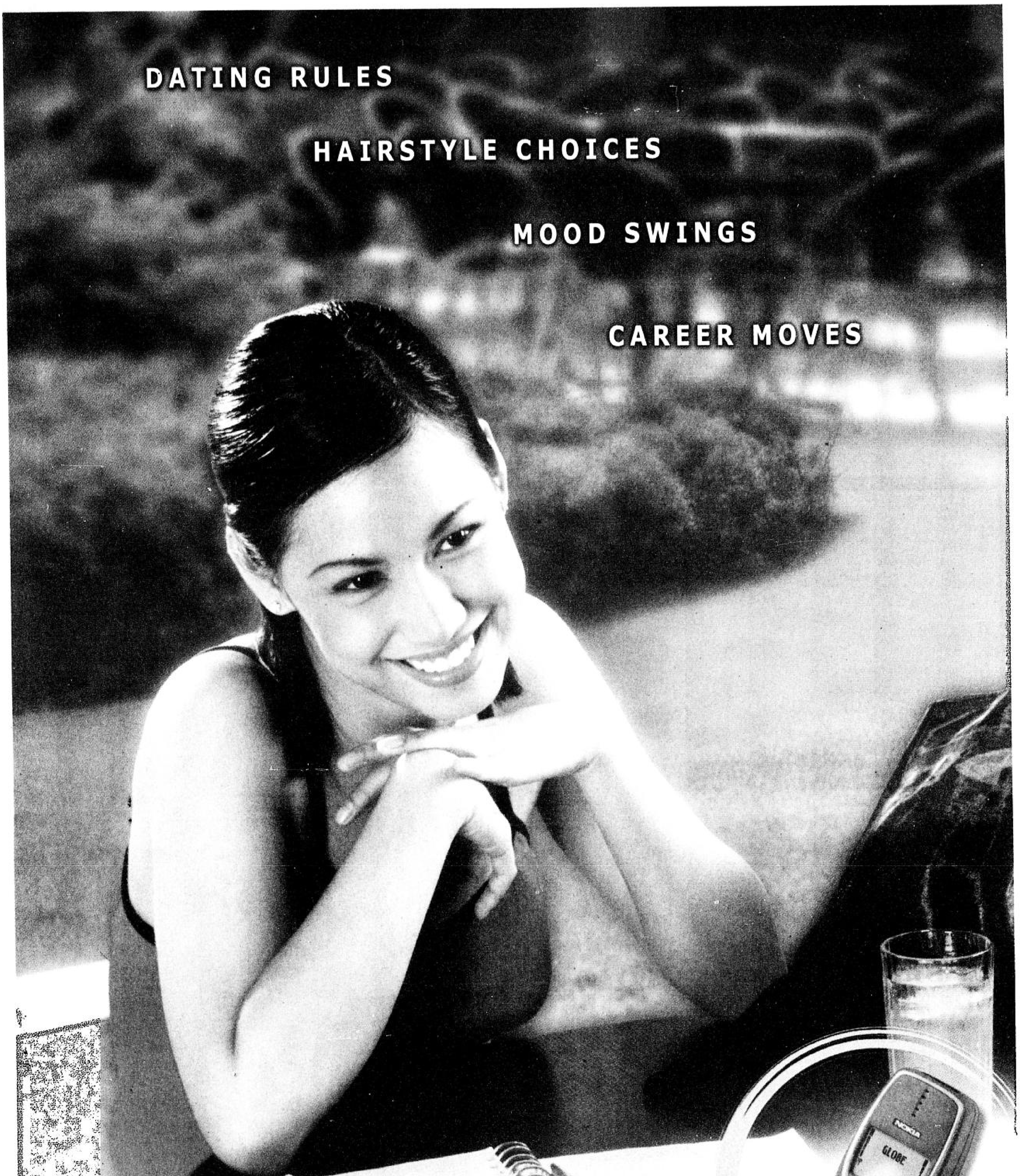
Promo period is from Nov. 20, 2000 to January 15, 2001. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3536 Series of 2000


DATING RULES
HAIRSTYLE CHOICES
MOOD SWINGS
CAREER MOVES
NOKIA
GLOBE
Menu

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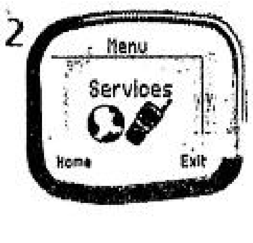
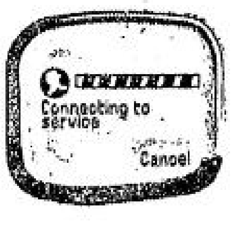
- For Motorola T2288-motorolawap

Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2 
Menu
Services
Home
Exit

If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

3 
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Saturday SPECIAL

'Hannibal' heads Hollywood lineup for 2001

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Hide the fava beans. He's back for seconds.

The early months of the year, normally a quiet time for Hollywood, take on more bite in 2001 with the February release of "Hannibal," sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs."

Anthony Hopkins reprises his Oscar-winning role as Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter, the mass murderer with a taste for human liver served alongside fava beans and washed down with a nice chianti. Julianne Moore subs for Jodie Foster as FBI agent Clarice Starling, the object of Hannibal's professional, if not culinary, curiosity.

Memorial Day

"Hannibal" leads an unusually heavy-hitting slate of films due in theaters before Memorial Day.

There's a wealth of big-name fare: Brad Pitt in "Snatch" and "The Mexican," the latter co-starring Julia Roberts; Jack Nicholson in "The Pledge"; Tim Robbins in "Antitrust"; Warren Beatty and Diane Keaton in "Town & Country"; Robert De Niro in "15 Minutes"; Nicolas Cage in "Captain Corelli's Mandolin"; and Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie in "Original Sin."

"Hannibal" takes up the story of Lecter and Starling eight years after the killer's escape from custody. Starling's once-promising FBI career has stalled, while Lecter has been indulging himself in intellectual and cannibalistic pursuits in Italy.

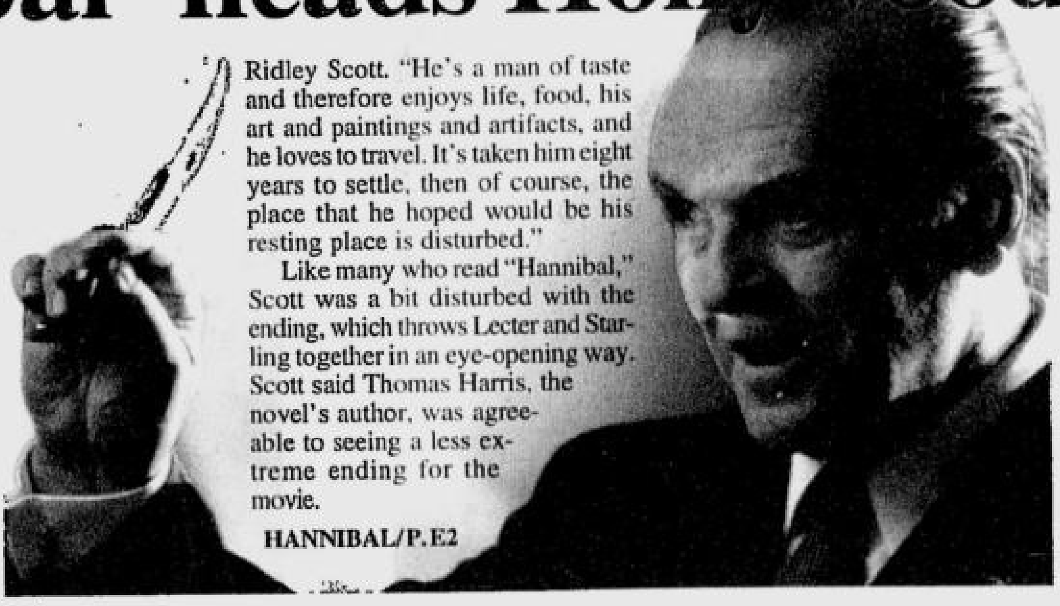
Their paths cross again when the killer's comfortable refuge is infiltrated by henchmen dispatched by one of Lecter's vengeful victims.

Artifacts

"He's been out and about enjoying himself and traveling and being near those things he loves," said "Hannibal" director Ridley Scott. "He's a man of taste and therefore enjoys life, food, his art and paintings and artifacts, and he loves to travel. It's taken him eight years to settle, then of course, the place that he hoped would be his resting place is disturbed."

Like many who read "Hannibal," Scott was a bit disturbed with the ending, which throws Lecter and Starling together in an eye-opening way. Scott said Thomas Harris, the novel's author, was agreeable to seeing a less extreme ending for the movie.

HANNIBAL/P.E2



HOPKINS reprises his Oscar-winning role as mass murderer Haninibal "The Cannibal" Lecter in "Hannibal," the sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs."

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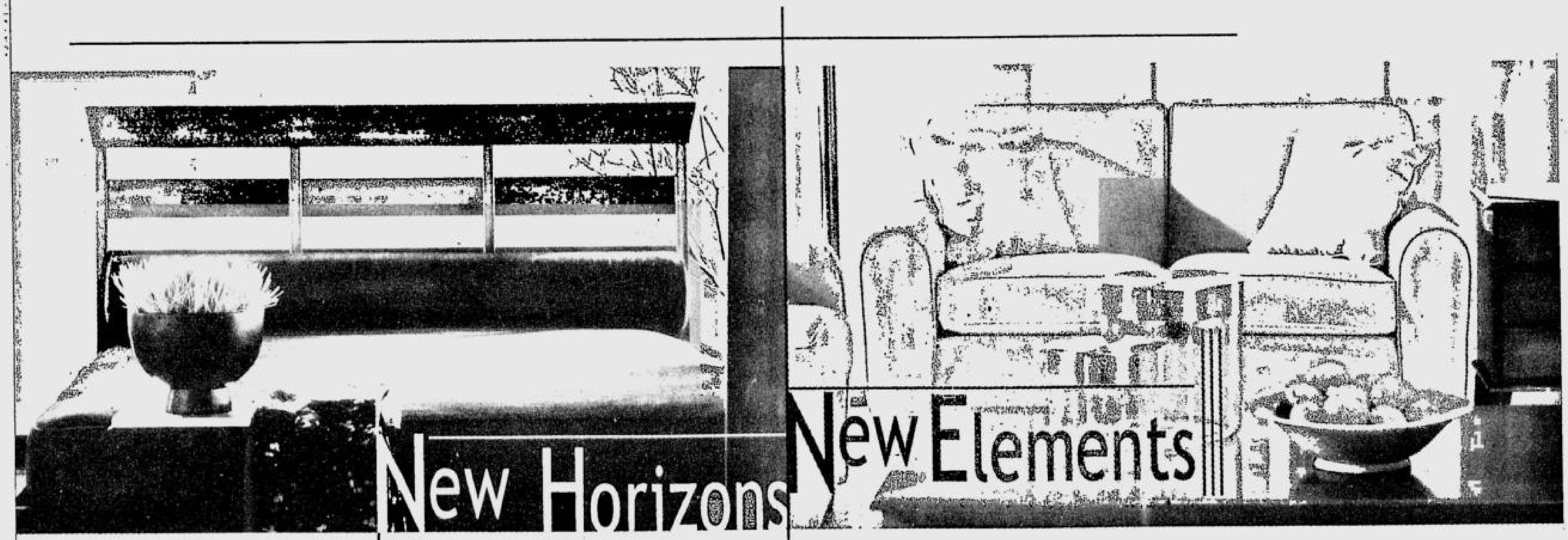

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Walking in Jesus' footsteps with Jeanne, Tintin and Julius

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST month, the wire services reported the depressing news that the storied town of Bethlehem in Israel had opted to "cancel" Christmas for the year 2000, in weary resignation over the renewed troubles between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

No everlasting light

Bummer. That was the month when we joined the Catholic Travel pilgrimage to the Holy Land. What, a pre-Christmas tour with no visit to the Christ child's birthplace? O, little town of Bethlehem, in thy bright streets shineth no everlasting light…?

And yet, we decided to push through with our tour, despite prospects of a less than peaceful stay in the land where Jesus lived and died. Why? Well, we told ourselves that we had survived our teaching stint in Saigon at the height of the Vietnam war, so—!

We also found ourselves heartened by the example simply and calmly set by the "stars" in our spiritual tour group of some 40 pilgrims—Christine "Tintin" Bersola, Julius Babao and Jeanne Young.

Hectic

Our trip was a hectic one that, given the turbulent political atmosphere in Israel during this period, was fraught with a measure of danger. But our three celebrity fellow pilgrims went through their days with admirable focus, composure—and joy!

Taking our cue from their determinedly happy attitude, we decided not to fret because we were in very good company.

Our Holy Land pilgrimage was a working visit for Julius and Tintin, who were shooting features for their popular early morning show on Channel 2, "Alas Singko Y Medya." While the rest of us were moving from place to place, meditating and listening to the inspired homilies of our tour group's chaplain, Rev. Fr. Renato Jose Lopez, SSL, Julius and Tintin were doing all that—*plus* shooting madly all over the place. How they were able to fill their days and nights with so much work *and* prayer, we couldn't figure out.

Holy site

It did help that the TV hosts had previously been on two other Catholic Travel pilgrimages, so they knew the lay of the land. "Hitting" a holy site, they knew exactly where to start shooting, what details to concentrate on with their cameras, etc.

On top of that, they made it a point to tape our chaplain's homilies because they would serve as perceptive aural anchors for their visual essays on every place we visited.

Fans of "Alas Singko Y Medya" have a series of treats in store for them this Holy Week, when Tintin and Julius plan to share their coverage of the Holy Land with their loyal viewers.

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TINTIN, Jeanne and Julius visit a small church erected over a holy site associated with St. Peter.

Spirituality

For her part, Jeanne was similarly all over the place, making the pilgrimage a more enjoyable and rewarding experience for the rest of us, leading the hymn and psalm sing-alongs, sharing with us her extensive experience on pilgrimages in different parts of the world, and basically just helping us see that spirituality need not be arid and abstract.

Jeanne has had to deal with a number of daunting problems in her life, and yet her faith hasn't wavered, and this heartening example wasn't lost on the rest of us.

The fact that our three celebrity pilgrims were so hardworking, happy and caring helped make our tour of the Holy Land a specially luminous experience, despite the problems and possible risks involved.

Culmination

The culmination of their special contribution, to our mind, was the evening when five couples in our group renewed their marriage vows. This could have ended up as just another nostalgic ritual, but Christine, Julius and Jeanne got into it so enthusiastically that it became a major highlight of our tour, and a specially meaningful experience for the five couples involved—Oscar and Sophia Uy, Ted and Josine Santos, Rey and Thelma Pilar, Jake and Everett Maderazo and Eloy and Marissa Adamos. Christine and Julius took it upon themselves not just to shoot the rites in great, loving detail, but also, with Jeanne, to find flowers for the "brides," candles, and wine and glasses for the five couples.

Moving experience

Jeanne's extra contribution was a wonderful song that she sang with great heart and love during the ceremony, making the evening a warm and moving experience for everyone involved.

'Hannibal' heads . . . (From page E1)

Hollywood's big early-year slate stands as a springboard to a potentially colossal summer and fall at the box office. The lineup from Memorial Day weekend to year's end includes the battle spectacle "Pearl Harbor"; Disney's animated epic "Atlantis"; reinterpretations of "Planet of the Apes," "Rollerball" and "The Time Machine"; Steven Spielberg's "A.I."; the biopic "Ali"; and part one of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

There's also sequels galore, among them "Jurassic Park 3," "American Pie 2," "Doctor Dolittle 2," "Rush Hour 2" and "The Santa Clause 2."

Big sequels

"Based on the titles, 2001 is going to be an incredible year of movies," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. "On paper, it looks like a record-breaking year with all the big sequels and big new films coming. You can just go down the list and see all these big event films people will be very anxious to see."

Highlights of the early releases for 2001 (some films play in select cities, and release dates are subject to change):

January:

"Antitrust": A new hire (Ryan Phillippe) uncovers shady dealings at a computer mega-corporation run by a software dynamo (Tim Robbins).

"Double Take": Wrongly framed, an investment banker (Orlando Jones) swaps identities with a thief (Eddie Griffin).

"The Invisible Circus": A teen (Jordana Brewster) explores the mystery of the death of her sister (Cameron Diaz). Christopher Eccleston co-stars.

"The Pledge": Jack Nicholson is a detective drawn into a murder investigation on the day of his retirement. Sean Penn directs.

"Save the Last Dance": A white, small-town teen (Julia Stiles) finds romance with a black hip-hop dancer (Sean Patrick Thomas) in Chicago.

Comic heist

"Snatch": Madonna's new hubby, Guy Ritchie, directs this comic heist flick that stars Dennis Farina, Benicio Del Toro and Brad Pitt.

"Sugar and Spice": High school cheerleaders plot a bank robbery in this comedy that features Mena Suvari, James Marsden and Marley Shelton.

"The Wedding Planner": Jennifer Lopez is a wedding planner who stumbles on her own potential soul mate (Matthew McConaughey) after an auto mishap.

"With A Friend Like Harry...": A seemingly benign old classmate becomes more and more menacing for a vacationing family in this French thriller.

(To be concluded)

Focus . . . (From page E4)

Love life

She'd often drop by the studio right after my radio show to update me on her love life. That's when I discovered that this girl was an interesting talker. Though we only shared small talk, I realized that Sharon could talk about anything with intelligence, was tactful and diplomatic, and had a special gift for winning people's hearts (mine included).

Through the years, I kept track of Sharon's activities and romantic affairs. She and Gabby eventually broke up and moved on to other relationships, only to end up in each other's arms once more. When I learned of their wedding plans, I was surprised.

I remembered Sharon telling me in one of my interviews with her that she wanted to wed when she reached the ripe age of 25. And there she was—just 18 and about to get hitched! Nevertheless, I was happy for the couple.

As the date of the wedding loomed closer, Sharon and Gabby's movie "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa" was also slated to open in theaters. At the last minute, Viva Film's Vic Del Rosario called me to plan a gimmick for the movie just in case the magic of their loveteam had been affected by the announcement of Sharon and Gabby's wedding.

Quickly and with good intentions, I immediately put together footage of Gabby and Sharon's affairs with Janice and Rowell, with the idea of showing the fans that, no matter what, the two eventually ended up together at last.

But when Sharon and Gabby saw the footage, they were furious—perhaps they didn't understand the idea behind it (though I did a voice-over explaining its meaning). Viva denied having a hand in what happened and so for sometime my relationship with the couple became strained.

Small industry

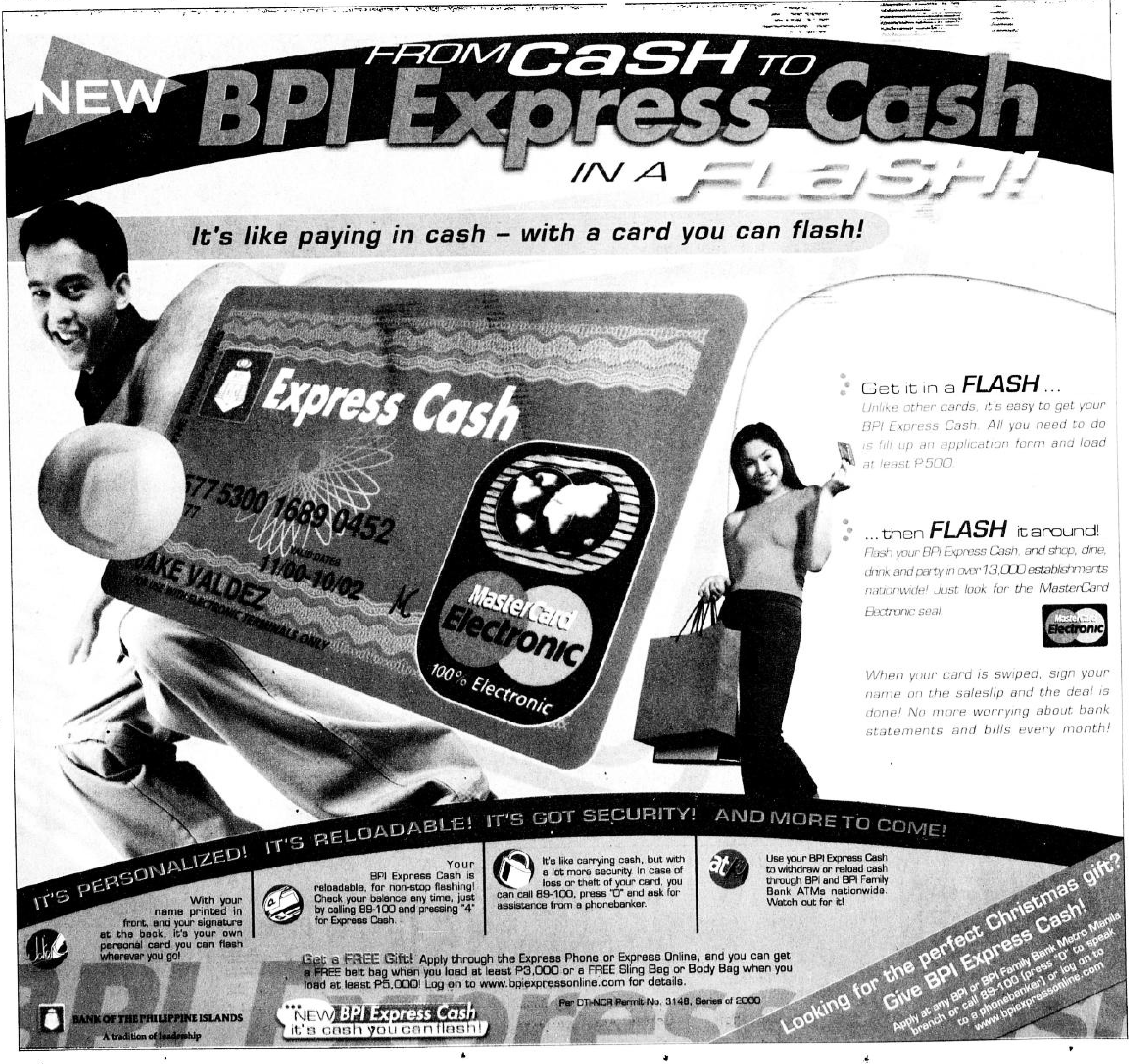
However, since this is a small industry and we kept bumping into each other (she had to promote her movies on my show), our "gap" eventually died a natural death. Besides, Sharon has this way of winning people to her side. Soon, we were friends once more.

For a while, I thought Sharon and Gabby's marriage would last. Sharon was a devoted wife and mother to both Gabby and KC. I remember visiting Sharon at their house, where she demonstrated how she prepared pasta for her family for my "At Home With The Stars" segment. They seemed happy and contented.

Unfortunately, like most show biz marriages, Sharon and Gabby's ended in separation. It was such a big blow to their fans. I remember one of their fan clubs, the Exclusive Mothers of Sharon and Gabby, giving out *stampitas* to everyone and pleading to people to pray that Gabby and Sharon would patch up their differences!

But it seemed God had other plans for the two. The marriage was eventually dissolved. If not for her strong faith in God, I believe Sharon would have gone crazy. She was so in love with Gabby even after their separation that her hurt was palpable on screen (albeit silently) every Sunday on "The Sharon Cuneta Show."

(To be concluded)



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11:15 a.m.
I know! It's that cowboy from Texas that you met through your cousin Bernice. Oh brother! He'll make you shine his boots!

11:45 a.m.
I got it! It must be your boss. That rich 64 year-old bachelor. Oh brother! Don't you think he's a bit old for you?

12:00 p.m.
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January 23 (Tuesday) 2-5pm Fee:P800
BASIC BAKING 2
Prune Cake, Food for the Gods, Pampango Taisan, Empanada, Mango Layer Refrigerator Cake

January 25 (Thursday) 2-5pm Fee:P1,000
PARTY DISHES 1
Crispy Kangkong with Garlic Dip, Special Pastel de Pollo, Crown Roast of Pork with Herb, Rice & Sausage Stuffing, Lengua Estofado con Champignon, Baked Lapu-lapu

January 27 (Saturday) 9-12nn Fee:P1,000
PARTY DISHES 2
Roast Beef with Gravy, Callos a la Madrilena, Roast Pork Loin, Chicken Divan, Various Ways with Mussels

January 27 (Saturday) 2-5pm Fee:P800
BARS AND COOKIES
Mississippi Mudcake Bars, Chocolate Crinkles, Pecan Lace, Russian Tea Cookies, Lemon Square, Valentine Cookies

January 30 (Tuesday) 2-5pm Fee:P1,000
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Focus on Sharon Cuneta

ABOUT a month ago, I started a series spotlighting on actors who have either entered politics or are planning to. So far, I have featured Superstar Nora Aunor and Star for All Seasons Vilma Santos.

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

This week, I resume the focus on none other than Megastar Sharon Cuneta. Sharon has consistently denied any plans of running for public office.

Daughter

But being the daughter of the late Mayor of Pasay Pablo Cuneta and wife of Atty Francisco Pangilinan, the possibility of Sharon eventually pursuing a political career is not at all far-fetched.

I have known Sharon for years and I believe that if she finally decides to serve people (not that she hasn't already done so privately), she would certainly be up to the task.

My first recollection of Sharon was way back in the '80s. In one of my radio shows for Broadcast City, I came across her first record "Mr. DJ." At the time, she was this neophyte singer being pushed by Vicor Records. To be honest, I didn't think much of her voice, nor her potential to storm the industry the way she did. I thought she was just average, pretty and talented, but not at par with her contemporaries.

The second time I heard about Sharon was when Helen Gamboa (Sharon's aunt) called me to invite me to interview Sharon during her birthday (Jan. 6) for "See-True." However, since I was still exhausted from the holidays, I politely declined.

It was when Sharon promoted her "Dear Heart" movie on my TV show that I finally got the chance to scrutinize this girl who was being hyped up by Viva. Earlier, I had already met her when we both guested on "Spin-A-Win."

Spoiled brat

Looking at her, my initial impressions were confirmed. She was nothing special (or so I thought), just an ordinary girl trying her luck in show biz's sea of wanna-bes. At best, I thought she was a spoiled brat who'd probably shine for sometime and then fade into oblivion as new and "better" talents came along.

CUNETA. The star to beat from the '80s onwards.

I thought more of her partner and future husband, Gabby Concepcion, who was obviously star material and had the added edge of being groomed by Mother Lily as the next big thing. But history later showed Sharon overtaking Gabby's star, and everyone else's for that matter.

To say that I didn't see Sharon's rise to mega-fame is an understatement. How terribly wrong I was! Time and fate eventually proved Sharon to be the star to beat in the '80s and beyond. She eventually "annihilated" her competition and put herself in the same stature Nora and Vilma had during their time.

With her trademark *api-apihan* roles winning the hearts of the masses and by spearheading a wave of hysteria among movie fans and breaking box-office records year after year, Sharon was proclaimed the megastar (rightfully so!).

And to think that Sharon did it in all four media (movies, television, recording and concert scene)—a feat unmatched to this day.

But I'm getting ahead of my story. I became close to Sharon years before the hoopla, just about the time she and Gabby became an item (both reel and real) right after "Dear Heart."

Love life

She'd often drop by the studio right after my radio show to update me on

FOCUS/ P. E2

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Television corner

THE Hallmark Entertainment Network has a tie-up with National Bookstore, Shoemart and Filstar Distributors Corporation, the licensee of Hallmark Cards: until Jan. 31, any single purchase of a Hallmark greeting card entitles the buyer to a free Hallmark *Celebrate Life* Year 2001 pocket calendar.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

And Hallmark has set up a television corner at select National Bookstore branches that show *Hallmark's Kids Block* filmclips. Featured are award-winning children's programs like "Mopatop's Shop," "Wishbone," "The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss" and "Open Sesame."

UK Education Fair

The British Council in the Philippines is holding the UK Education Fair 2001 at Hotel Intercontinental Manila on Jan. 19 and 20 and at Marriot Hotel in Cebu City on Jan. 22, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Representatives from UK universities will provide prospective students with information and advice on courses, entry requirements, application procedures, etc. Call 914-1011 to 14 for more information.

TV treats

Saturday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m., on Star Movies, "WCW Starrcade" presents three hours of non-stop wrestling action. It opens with a Triple Threat Ladder match to decide which wrestler gets a shot at Chavo Guerrero, Jr. and the Cruiserweight title.

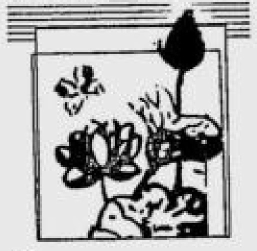
At 10 p.m., the National Geographic Channel presents "Journey to the Jade Sea," an expedition to the world's largest desert lake.

Sunday, Jan. 14 at 9 a.m. on Star Movies, Oliver Platt and Stanley Tucci in "The Impostors." At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Six Days, Seven Nights" with Harrison Ford and Anne Heche.

Monday, Jan 15 on Star Movies: at 6 p.m., "Angel Heart" with Lisa Bonet. At 8 p.m., "Celebrity Profile" focuses on "NYPD-Blue" star Sharon Lawrence. At 9 p.m., "Land of the Free" with William Shatner.

Man's lethal lifestyle

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia

NATURE has its way of recycling dead matter to enrich the earth, of purifying water via evaporation, of producing oxygen through plant processes.

Carbon dioxide

Man, on the other hand, has his way of creating non-recyclable materials to pollute the earth.

If man does not live in the ways set down by nature, he creates his own living hell and executes himself by his own lethal lifestyle.

One item that creates a heavy burden for the earth is the proliferation of plastic products. Indeed, we even have plastic politicians. (But whereas plastic spoons and cups prove to be easily disposable, our plastic politicians are not easy as to get rid of!)

We often think it is alright to dump our garbage in someone else's backyard but never in our own backyard. Politicians who want Manila's garbage dumped in the pristine environment of the Visayas should have some of that garbage dumped in their own backyard!

Garbage

Fifteen years ago, a friend of mine asked a teacher from Beijing what they did with their garbage. The lady answered that they recycle everything and that each piece of renewable resource is never put to waste.

In the book "A Healthy House" by Sydney and Joan Baggs, there is wonderful question posed for human beings: "Unlike other species, humans are equipped with the powers of self-awareness, creativity and language, giving us the capacity to transcend the mere basics of satisfying physiological needs. Yet our total assault on nature has increased exponentially since agricultural settlements first began.

"Will we continue to mistreat nature, ensuring a quick extermination of our and other species—or will we work towards an infinitely renewable future?"

Problems

Man creates problems without known solutions. He creates products that pollute the earth and poison our resources.

Man's gross irresponsibility is made evident by the sickening piles of garbage that he knows not where to dump. He wants to ship them off to far-away islands like the scientists who want to hurl nuclear wastes into space or sink them deep into the oceans. They do not know that what they sow, that's what they shall reap.

The simpler we live, the less garbage we produce. The less we hanker for material things, the less anxiety we create for ourselves.

A clean environment is brought about by people with clean minds and hearts. Those who respect the Supreme Lord show respect for His property and His eternal laws.

Tara! Punta tayo ng zoo!
GUYITO

Junior INQUIRER

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WWW.INQUIRER.NET

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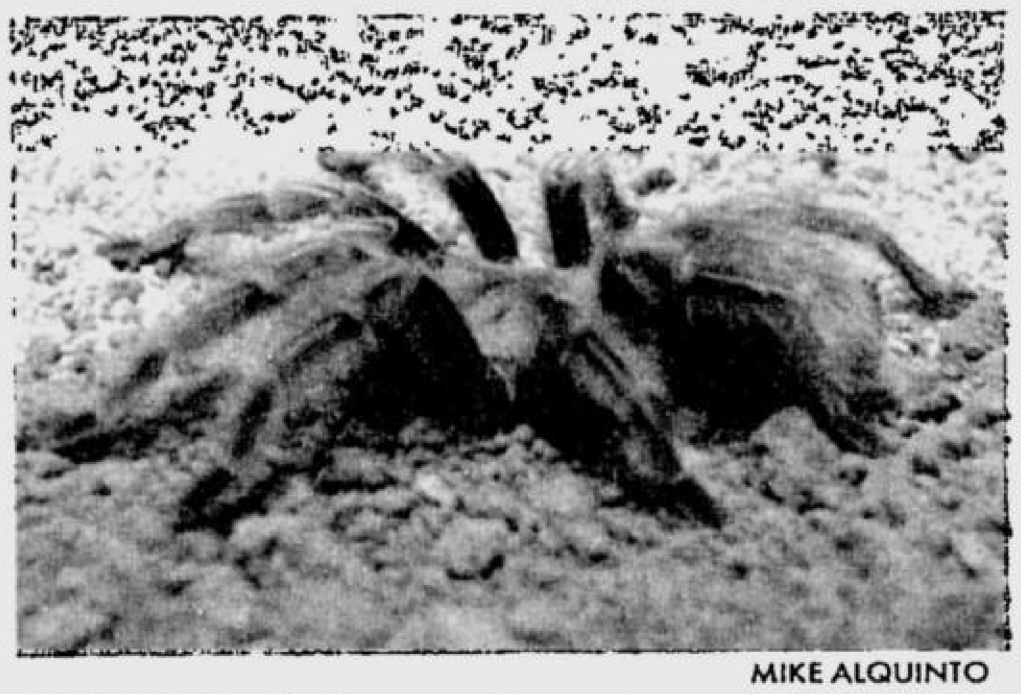
Happy New ZOO!

Lungsod Kalikasan at Parks & Wildlife, Quezon City is a zoo that makes animals feel at home too

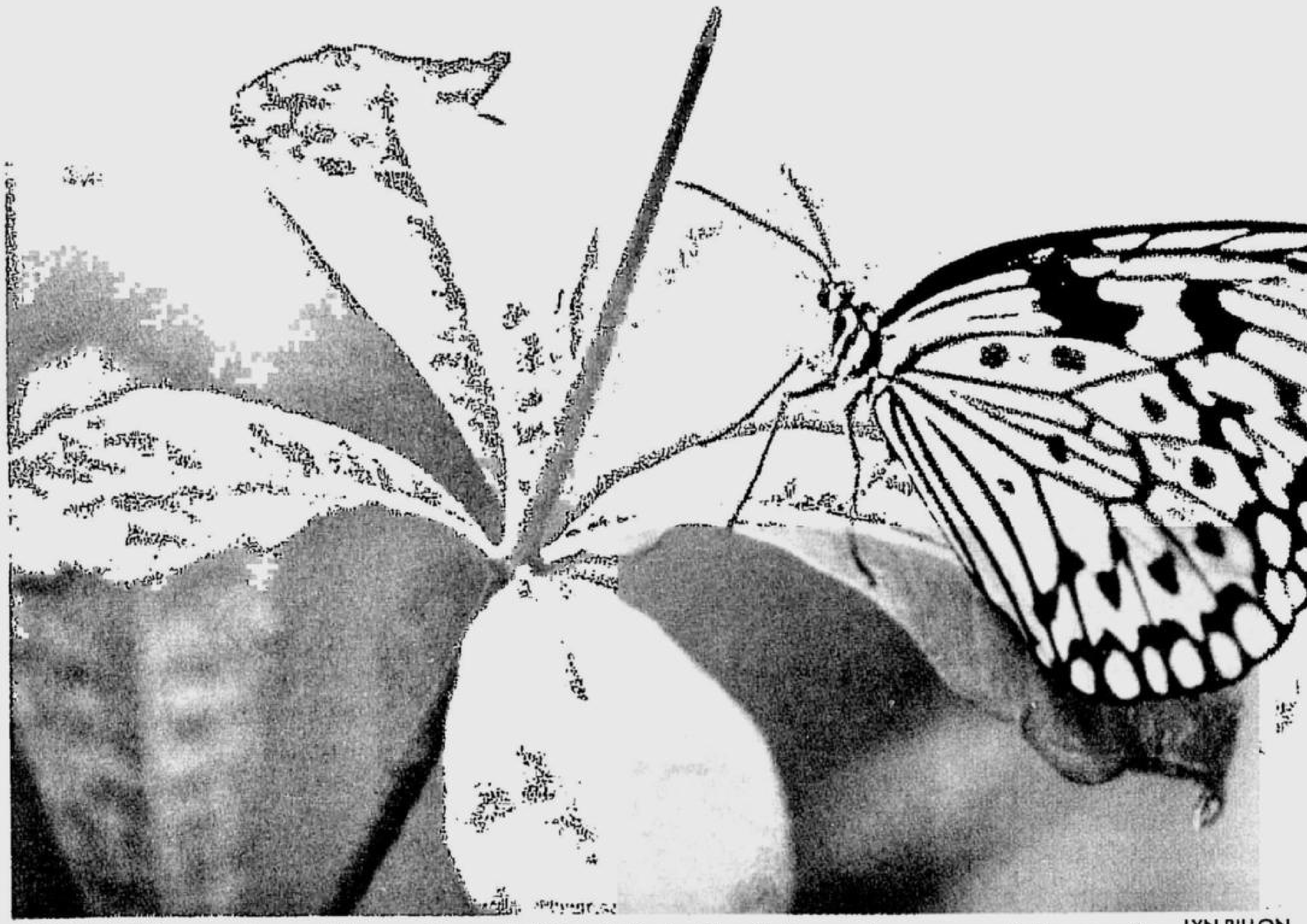
BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

YOU are a turtle. All your life you've been passed around from one filthy aquarium to another. Then one day, you are put in a big cage. You're not really sure what's happening, but the next thing you know there are already more than a hundred other turtles inside the cage with you! You no longer see the floor; for months you do nothing but crawl and fall all over your fellow turtles. To make things worse, a huge purple heron is inside the cage too. Sometimes he walks around and doesn't even notice when he steps on the top of your head.



MIKE ALQUINTO

TAN-TA-RAN. Presenting a tarantula.



BEAUTIFUL creatures big and small (like this butterfly) can be seen at the park. LYN RILLON

Whew! Okay, you're a person again. This time, you're with us happily checking out Lungsod Kalikasan, the new zoo at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center in Quezon City. Here the animals—and that includes turtles!—are in wide, plant-filled spaces made to look like the homes they once belonged to.

Return to the Rescue Center

Before Lungsod Kalikasan was built, all the animals were cramped inside the few cages at the park's Wildlife Rescue Center. Remember reading about it when JI snooped into Metro zoos in April last year? Just to refresh your memory, this is where the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) keeps all the animals it confiscates from illegal collectors and smugglers.

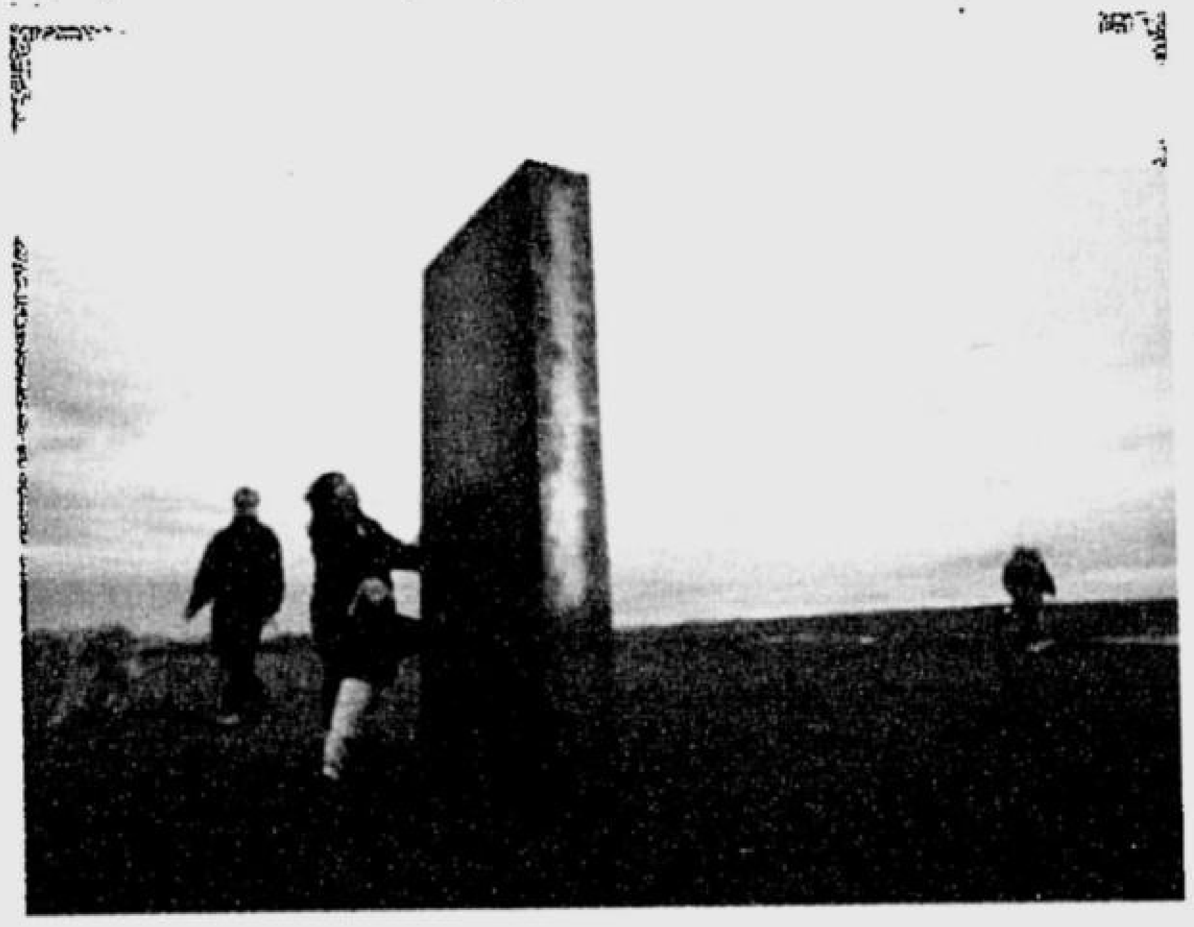
Over the years, there had been so many confiscations that the cages soon began to get crowded. Then, finally, in the middle of 1999, the DENR decided to do something about it. With the help of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation, a group of grown-ups who grew up loving the park, construction of a bigger modern zoo within the park began.

Happy/p.4

WORLD SCOPE

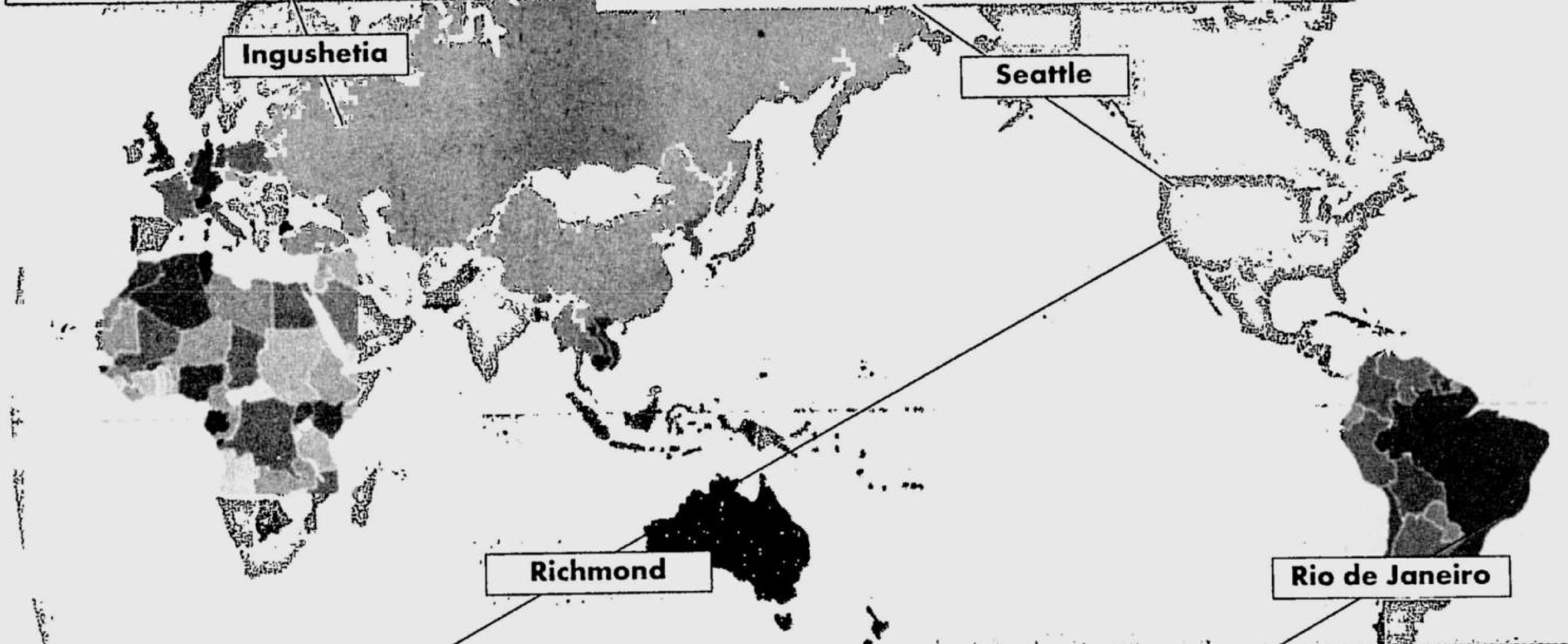
'We've got each other'

CHECHEN refugee children look at a burning candle at Karabulak refugee camp in Ingushetia near the Chechen border on Dec. 31 last year with a Christmas tree in the background. The conflict in breakaway Chechnya has caused heavy civilian casualties and turned more than 200,000 people into refugees, living in badly heated tents and railway cars in northwestern Chechnya and the neighboring Russian republic of Ingushetia. *AP*



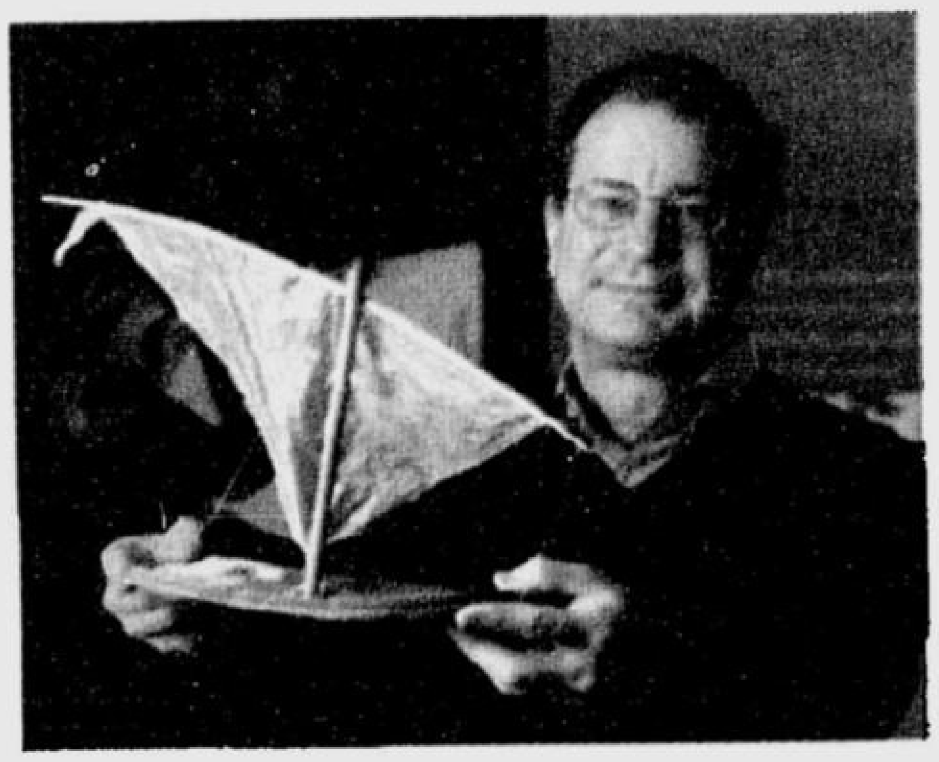
Mystery monolith

JOY Mallory and her daughter, Nakesha Beith, 4, test the sturdiness of a mystery monolith as other curious spectators circle the 9-foot-tall steel sculpture which stands on a grassy knoll in Magnuson Park. No one knows who installed the sculpture, reminiscent of the structure in the landmark science fiction movie "2001: A Space Odyssey." The unmarked sculpture appears to have been put in place on New Year's Eve. There is no plaque or other clue to the sculptor. *AP*



Poor children's toys

JOHN F. Schultz, president of the Christian Children's Fund, holds a sailboat made out of discarded footware, twigs and plastic at the organization's headquarters. Schultz was given the toy by a boy in Kenya, and it became the start of a collection of toys made from trash by children in poor countries. The toys are on display in the lobby of the organization's office. *AP*



Cans for cash

BEATRIZ Arneson, 9, left, helps her father Roberto Arneson, 23, collect aluminum cans on a beach in Brazil. The country is poised to overtake Japan as the world's leading recycler of aluminum cans. But it is not motivated by ecological consciousness. It's for money. Nearly half of all Brazilians get by on $156 (around 8,000 Philippine pesos) per month or less. To supplement their meager incomes, many collect cans. Arneson says he can make up to 50 Brazilian reals, about $25 (P1,200), collecting cans on a good day. *AP*

OUT
THERE
By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contests

ART CASTLES. Do you like painting or drawing castles? Be part of the NCCA's International Reward Competition. Organized by the World of Art magazine and the municipality of Celje, Slovenia, it is open to all artists under 20 years old. Entries must focus on the theme "Castles—the Cultural Heritage," referring to castles, palaces or manor houses which have served as buildings and residencies of kings and nobles. Materials may range from tempera, watercolor, dry pastel or graphics. Use paper sized 30x42 cm. Don't forget to include the following info: your full name, age, art teacher or mentor's full name, school and country. All artworks must be sent by March 1 to: Likovni Svet—The World of Art, Draga31, SI-3220 Store, Slovenia. For inquiries call up 527-2175, 527-2192 local 605 and look for Ms Yvette Macayan. Or send an e-mail to infor@ncca.gov.ph

SAVE THE EARTH. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts invites kids 6-15 years old to join the 10th Competition of Paintings by Children on the Environment. This year's theme is "Save the Earth! Preserve the Beautiful Oceans, Forests for the Future!" Use any medium of your choice. Winning paintings will be featured in exhibits all over Japan and other countries. They will also be used in posters, postcards, calendars or in a picture booklet. Submit your works to Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, 401 Howamita Tsunaka Bldg., 1-7-7 Minatoku, Tokyo 108-0073, Japan. For more info call up the NCCA Library at 527-2192.

Hangout

FASTRAC KIDS. This interactive hideaway for kids 3-8 years old offers a two-hour hands-on activities every week. There are simple kiddie experiments, video presentations; drawing and even newscasting and weather reporting. Fastrac Kids is open from Monday to Saturday. Call them up at 727-8499 and 727-8746. Check out their HQ at Unit 16 Valencia Hills, Valencia St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Cable Picks

LOST WORLD. Starting Jan. 15, National Geographic Channel features three thrilling episodes of "The Lost World: The Story of Archaeology." Meet antiquarians, archaeologists, and treasure seekers, and people who view the past as a treasure trove of art and ancient wisdom. That's every Monday at 10 p.m.

RED PLANET. The Invasion of Mars is definitely on in the exciting "Journey to Mars" on the National Geographic Channel. Called the Red Planet, it has evoked visions of armies of Martian invaders. Watch it on Jan. 26 at 9 p.m.

Happy New Zoo!

(from page 1)

In November last year, Lungsod Kalikasan was opened to the public.

Look up, look down, look all around

The whole idea behind Lungsod Kalikasan is to make the enclosures as similar to the animals' natural habitat as possible. That's why you'll find lots of plants in all the pens and cages. There are also waterfalls in some of the cages and "personalized amenities" like a mud and pebble pit for the Palawan bearded pig to play in as well as perches, birdbaths and tree-houses for the zoo's feathered residents. Best of all these enclosures are as much as 10 times bigger than their older ones, giving the animals plenty enough room for running and flying around. Hang out at the deer pen and watch the eight-month-old baby deer frolicking in all the extra space. Farther on, the *lawin* or Brahminy Kites, take off so gracefully from the trees in their cage, three rowdy teenage boys who were watching with us were silenced by the sight.

"*Ganda n'on* (That was beautiful)," one of them breathed as his two companions broke out clapping.

The most amazing view, though, can be had from within the eagle cage. About the size of a small building, the eagle cage with its trees and waterfalls is as close to the eagles' real home as we city people can get. It also features an enclosed walkthrough pathway where you can look up while an eagle soars right over your head.

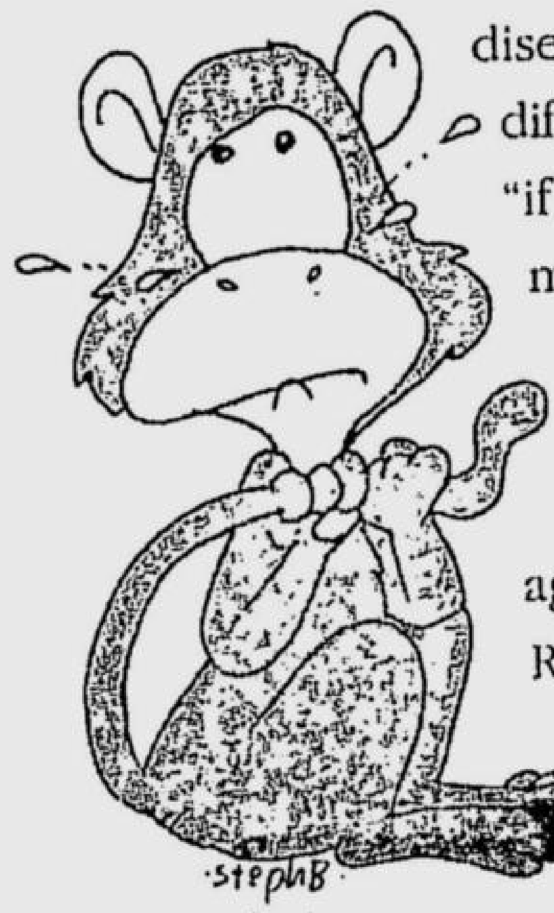
Clean and green. . .but there's no place like home

Grown-ups will be happy to find clean restrooms and lots of benches where they can rest while their kids explore the rest of the zoo.

So far, only the first half of Lungsod Kalikasan has been completed. The last two phases of the zoo, a big jungle-like mammal and reptile exhibit, is expected to open later this year. Watch out too for the opening of a Butterfly Enclosure and a petting zoo. Dr. Mundita Lim, assistant director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau which looks after the animals, says they are also planning an educational animal show that will demonstrate the natural behavior of some of the animals.

What would be even better to look forward to, though, is a day when people would stop taking animals from their natural habitats. Zoos can do their best to give the animals a home-away-from-home, but it's good to remember that the zoo isn't where they really belong.

Why can't we release them?



Dr. Rhoda de Veyra, head of the Wildlife Rescue Center, explained to us that after treating the confiscated animals, they still can't release them in the wild. "There are some diseases that we don't have tests for or are difficult to detect, like tuberculosis," she says, "if we release the animals untested, they might infect the natural animal population."

Dr. De Veyra also points out that the animals that have been kept in captivity for very long would have to be trained again on how to hunt and search for food. Right now, the government doesn't have the funds for either the tests or the training. Can you kids think of ways to help?

Did you know that...

...the architects of Lungsod Kalikasan even visited the Singapore Zoo to better figure out what a modern, animal friendly zoo ought to look like?

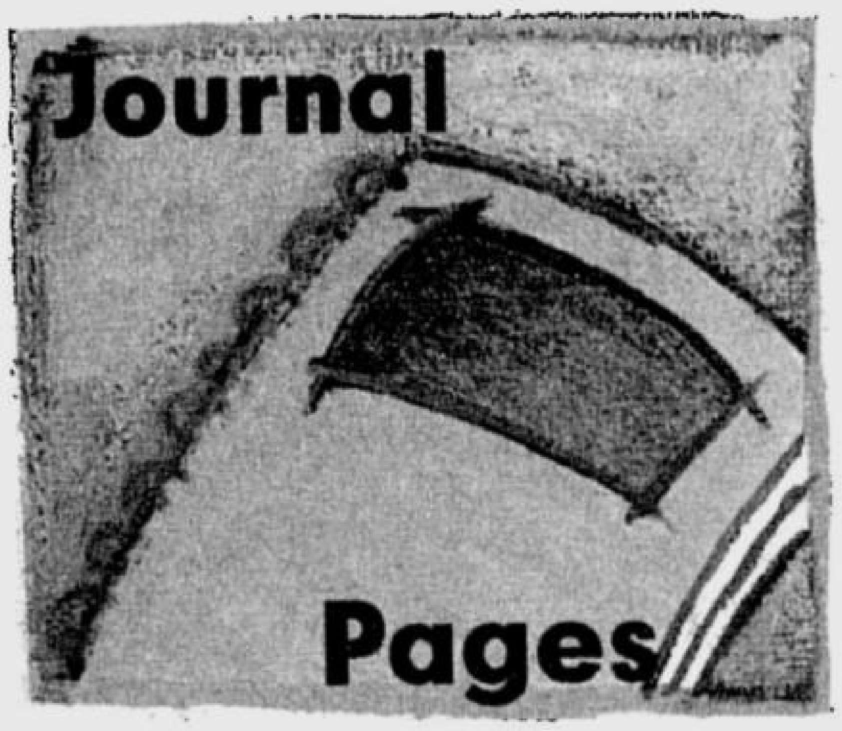
...the Palawan bearded pig is a nocturnal animal, meaning he's asleep during the day and active at night? Note: If you want to see him moving around, **DON'T** throw things at him. Instead, visit the park starting at 5 p.m.

...all the animals are given extra vitamins during the rainy season to keep them from getting sick? Believe it or not, birds can catch colds too!

...the turtles now have a pool the size of a kiddie swimming pool? Definitely a big improvement over the cage they shared with the heron!

LYN RILLON

GLUG-GLUG. Nothing like clean fresh water on a hot day.



What's cool in school?

By Aaron Dante M. Mamiit
La Salle Greenhills

WHEN I stepped into my classroom for the 126th time (that's an exact number!), I was simply tired of school. I couldn't take all the homework and having to wake up really early. I wanted to just give up and stay at home. But I couldn't. I had to go. We ALL have to go to school. And that got me thinking, if I could just remind myself of what's cool about school, maybe I'd feel much better.

I had a hard time coming up with my first reason. What's cool in school? Uh, the air-con? Really. No joke. Don't believe me? Then, read on.

The first thing I came up with was the cafeteria food. I love the smell of *sinigang* and chicken in the morning. It really wakes me up. Know what I mean? Enticed by its aroma, I often find myself going straight to the food counter to get some.

Next, I think our teachers are cool, too. Some are really fun to be with. And yes, some are, um, not so fun to be with. (It's a sad reality but we can't always get what we want.) The fun teachers really brighten up any rainy day. They can crack jokes, make a lesson really interesting, tell cool stories.

And the best cool thing in school is having friends. They're practically the only thing about school that I think of at home. (No offense to the teachers. . .you're great too.) They're always there for you, and they care for you too, even if they don't show it that much. When I see their smiles and hear their laughs, I just get this great feeling inside. Dunno what it is, but it feels good. Real good. I know this, since I've got a lot of good friends.

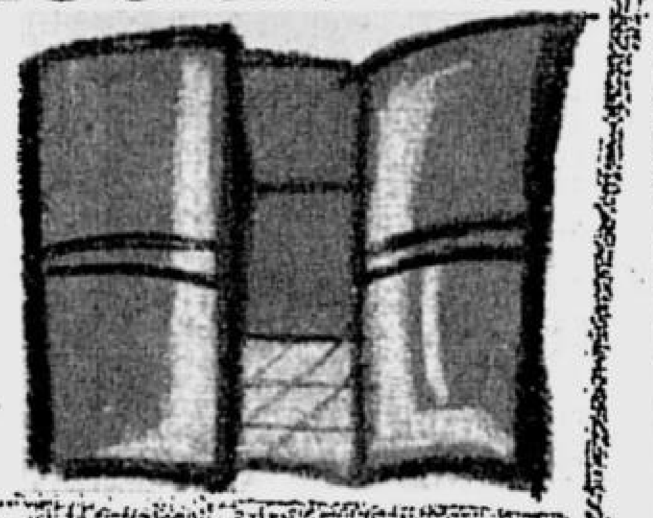
Now that I've thought about it, okay, school's kind of cool. I'm surprised that I actually look forward to it now. Really! I think that in the 127th morning that I step into our classroom, I'll probably be smiling.

That is, if I'm not tired from the homework and lack of sleep.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight From JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Harry's not scary

I AGREE with Mithi R. Sevilla's letter (JI, Oct. 28, 2000) that Harry Potter is not satanic! I am a fan of the series and I do not believe these rumors. The Harry Potter series is just fiction, it's not real! It's never going to happen. But ask anyone's who has read any of the books and I am sure they will tell you they are really good! The story even tells you how important parents and friends are in our lives.—**NINA ANA H. ESPIRITU**, 13, Miriam Grade School

An open letter to the President

DEAR Mr. President,

As concerned youths of this country, we are deeply affected by what is currently happening. We don't want to blame you or anyone else. But this is a time when we all need to overcome this challenge as a country. Though we can't really control what is going to happen, we think the best thing we can do is to pray and to let God enlighten us. We don't want to force you to resign but we trust that you will do what you think is best for the country and its future. May God bless you.—**DENISE CONCEPCION, MAXINE LABRADOR & VERONICA LOPEZ**, Grade 7, St. Paul College, Pasig

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ANG LUMANG BAUL

KUWENTO NI NATASHA VIZCARRA
GUHIT NI ABI GOY

MASARAP sanang maligo sa ulan;
maghanap nang palaka, salagubang, butete;
bihisan nang bathing suit ang aso;
gawan nang salbabida ang pusa
(mula sa plastic balloon);
gawing espada ang garden hose;
maglakad nang walang tsinelas;
manundot ng bulate sa kanal;
maghanap ng kalaro;
o kaya'y umupo lang
sa harap ng tindahan ni Aling Ising
at panoorin ang pagpatak ng tubig kung saan-saan.
Marami talagang magagawa
at magagawa lang kung umuulan.

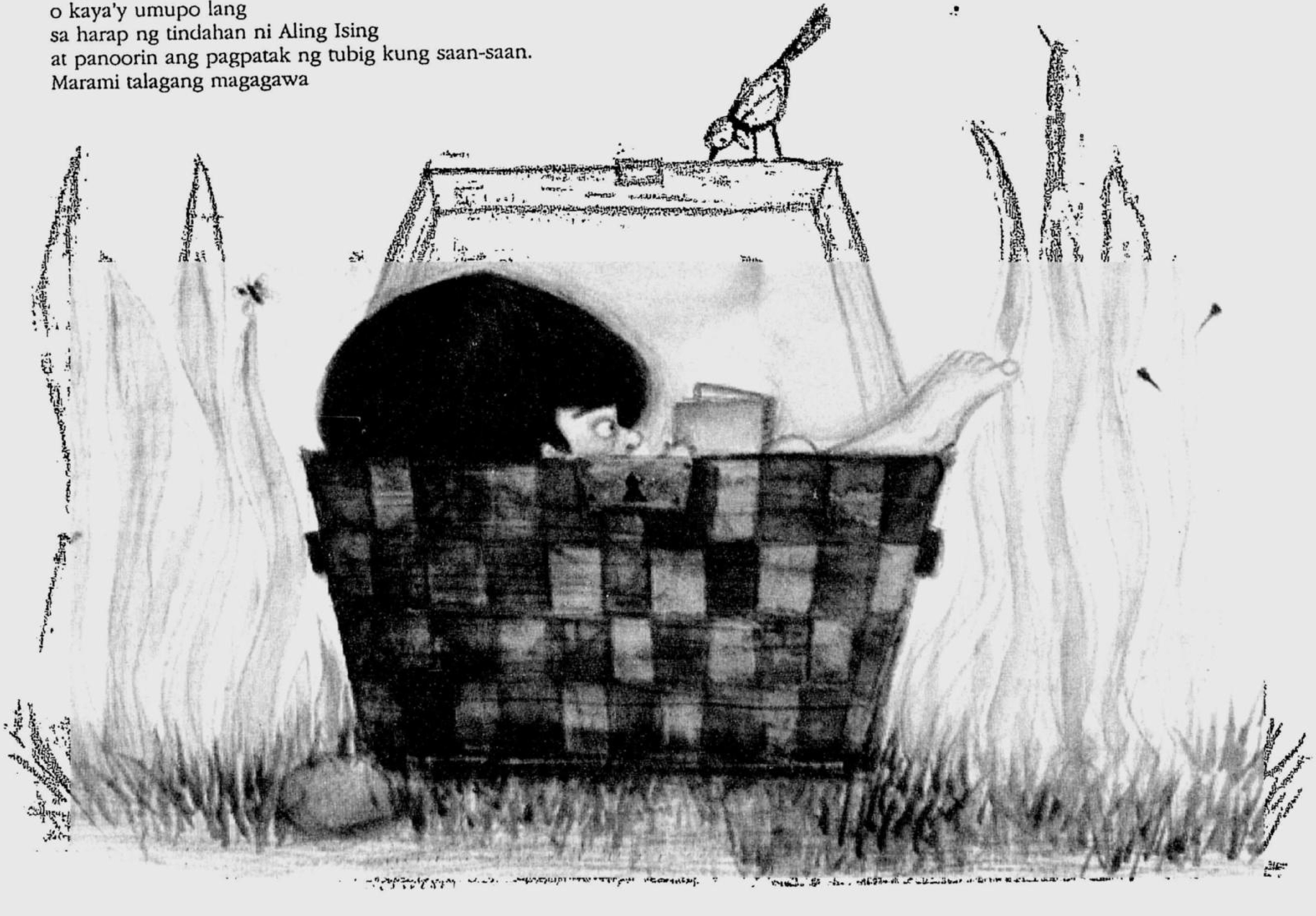
Ngunit dahil sobrang lakas ng ulan—
na hinaluan pa ng kulog at kidlat—
at dahil hindi siya pinayagang
lumabas ng kanyang nanay,
nagmaktol si Kikay at sumigaw ng
"Nanay naman!"

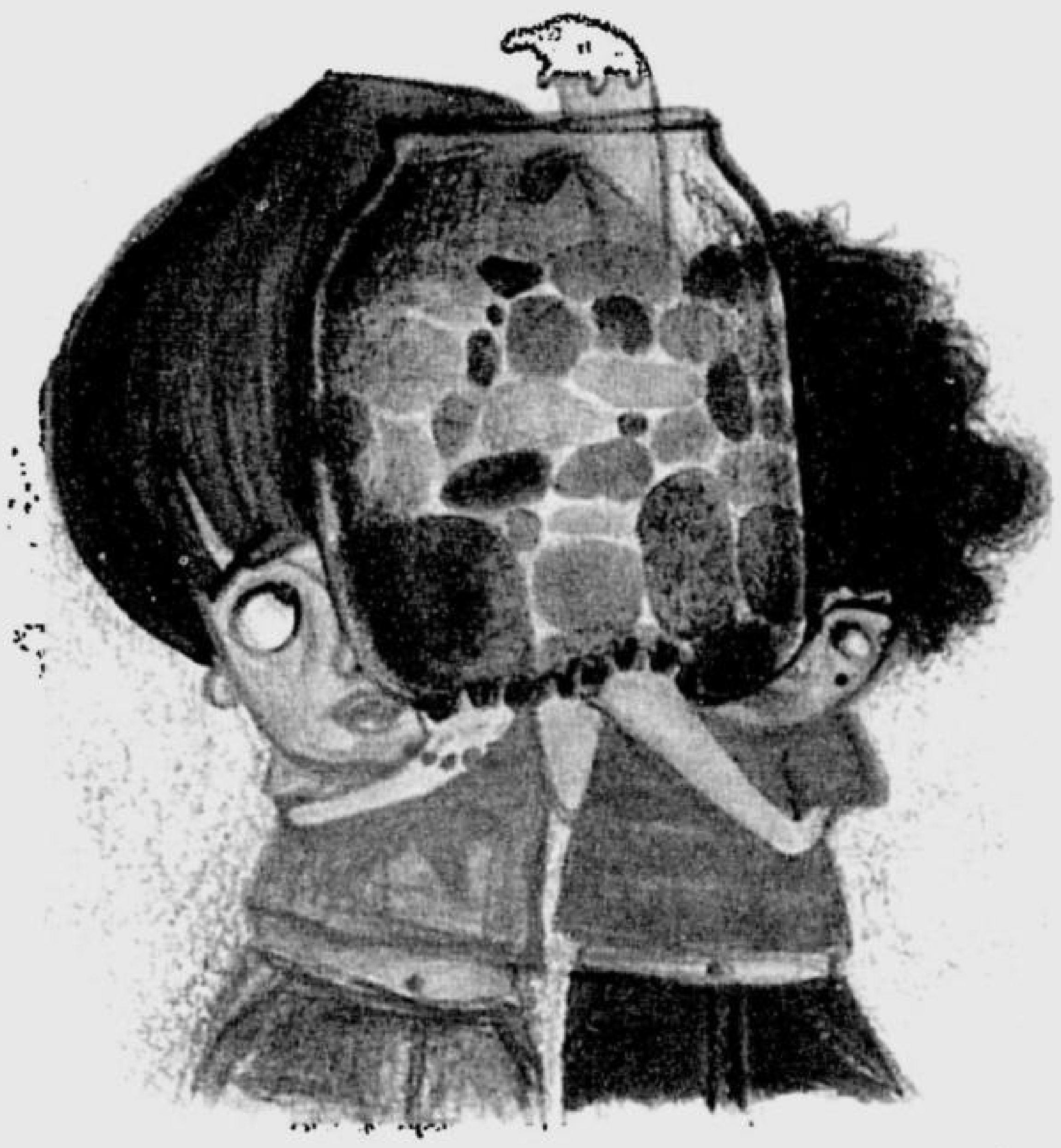
At ang sabi pa niya,
"Ayaw ko dito sa loob. . .sige na.
Hindi naman ako matanda gaya ninyo!"

Hindi makasagot ang kanyang nanay.
Tinignan lang niya ng matagal si Kikay, sabay,
"Huwag kang lalabas ngayon.
Dito ka lang sa bahay."

Kaya pumunta na lang si Kikay sa bodega
para maghanap ng mga lumang libro,
o kaya'y mga lumang laruan.
Pero, nang alisan niya ng takip
ang isang bagay na parang hindi pa niya natignan,
aba'y may nakita siyang baul
kaya kinandado niya ang pintuan.

Kanino kaya ang baul?
Ito'y luma pero mukhang iningatan nang mahusay
Matibay pa kahit luma ang kulay.
Sa loob, may mga kuwaderno na puno ng tula.





Sa isa'y sulat ng bata at sa isa's sulat ng matanda.
May mga drowing ng tao, hayop at mga puno.
Heto't mayroon pang isang garapon na puno
ng bato na sari-sari ang kulay.

Umupo si Kikay sa loob ng baul.
Kasyang-kasya siya.
Binasa niya ang mga tula at
pinikit niya ang kanyang mga mata.
Habang siya'y nakasakay sa baul
may mga biglang tumubo sa bodega.
Bigla na lang may damo,
may mga puno,
mga halaman.
Nagliparan ang mga ibon.
At ang baul, na biglang naging bangka,
ay lumutang sa isang malinis na ilog.
Itinigil ni Kikay ang bangka nang makita niya
ang isang bahay na parang nakita na niya noon,
pero hindi niya lang maalala kung kailan.
At sinalubong siya ng batang babae
na parang nakilala na niya
pero hindi niya maalala kung saan.
"Kikay pasok na tayo sa bahay," sabi ng bata.
"Ano'ng pangalan mo?"
"Ako si Mira."

NANG umagang iyon, nagkuwentuhan at nagkantahan
ang dalawang bata sa may malalaking bintana ng bahay.
Lumangoy sila sa ilog at naging mga sirena
at namulot ng mga batong sari-sari ang kulay.
Nang maging mga paa na ang mala-isdang kalahati
ng kanilang mga katawan, nag-unahan silang umakyat ng
puno para makapitas ng hinog na bayabas.
Sumakay sila sa kalesa na lumilipad at nakita nila
ang kahabaan ng ilog,
ang kalawakan ng bukid na ina-araro ng tatay ni Mira,
ang bayan at ang palengke,
ang mga sinirang gusali ng mga Hapon,
ang makapal na gubat sa malayo,
ang mga naglalakihang bundok,
at ang mga nagpuputiang ulap.
"Malamig dito sa taas," sabi ni Kikay.
"Bumalik na tayo sa bahay."
Nagpahinga uli sila sa tabi ng malalaking bintana
ng bahay ni Mira, habang hinihintay ang kare-kare na
niluluto ng nanay niya.
"At mayroon pa tayong ginataang mais," sabi ni Mira.
May kinuha si Mira sa kanyang kuwarto.
Isang garapon na pagka-laki-laki.
"Lagay natin dito ang mga bato,
balang araw, gagawa tayo ng palasyo," sabi ni Mira.
"Sige," ang sabi naman ni Kikay.
Pagkatapos nilang kumain
at tulungang maghugas ng pinggan ang nanay ni Mira,
nagpahinga ang dalawang bata sa tabi ng bintana.
"Okey ka talagang kalaro, sabi ni Kikay kay Mira,
"Sana hindi na tayo magkahiwalay."
Ngumiti si Mira
at ang huling nakita ni Kikay
bago siya naidlip ay ang nunal sa pisngi ni Mira.

Ito rin ang una niyang nakita pagkagising niya.
Kaya lang, parang iba.
"Kikay, anak. Gising na."
" 'Nay?"
Nakatulog pala siya na nakasakay sa baul, kasama
ang mga lumang damit, larawan
at mga iba lang lumang gamit.
"Baka lamigin ka dito sa bodega,
tayo na sa kusina at mananghalian na tayo."
Biglang naalala ni Kikay
ang sinabi niya sa kanyang nanay.
Hindi siya makatingin. Siya'y hiyang-hiya.
" 'Nay, sori po.
Hindi ko po sinasadya 'yung sinabi ko kanina."
Hinaplos siya sa buhok, "Alam ko."
Pinisil niya ang mapipintog na pisngi
ni Kikay at siya'y bumulong ng, "Kumain na tayo.
Niluto ko ang paborito mong kare-kare."
Binuhat niya si Kikay mula sa baul.
"At may ginataang mais pa!"

"H-Ha?" Nanlaki ang mga mata ni Kikay.
"O, bakit" tanong ni Aling Mirasol,
"Hindi ba't paborito mo ang kare-kare at ang ginataang mais?"
"O-opo," tinignang mabuti
ni Kikay ang nunal
sa pisngi ng kanyang nanay.
"Eh, di kumain na tayo."
Palabas na sila sa bodega
nang naisipang magtanong ni Kikay.
"Nay, sa iyo ba 'yung garapon
na puno ng bato?"
"Oo, anak, balak ko kasing
magtayo ng palasyo."
"H-ha? Eh di sa inyo po ba
"yung baul?
At yung mga damit?
At tumira ba kayo nina Lolo't Lola
sa tabi ng ilog?. . .Anong hitsura
ng bahay ninyo? At—"
"Hay naku anak,
ang dami mo namang tanong,"
ang tawa ni Aling Mirasol.
"Para ka namang matanda."
At kinindatan ni Aling Mirasol
ang kanyang anak na takang-taka.

*Si **Natasha** ay ang patnugot ng Junior Inquirer. Miyembro siya ng Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting (Kuting) at may pusa siyang ang pangalan ay Meowsie.*

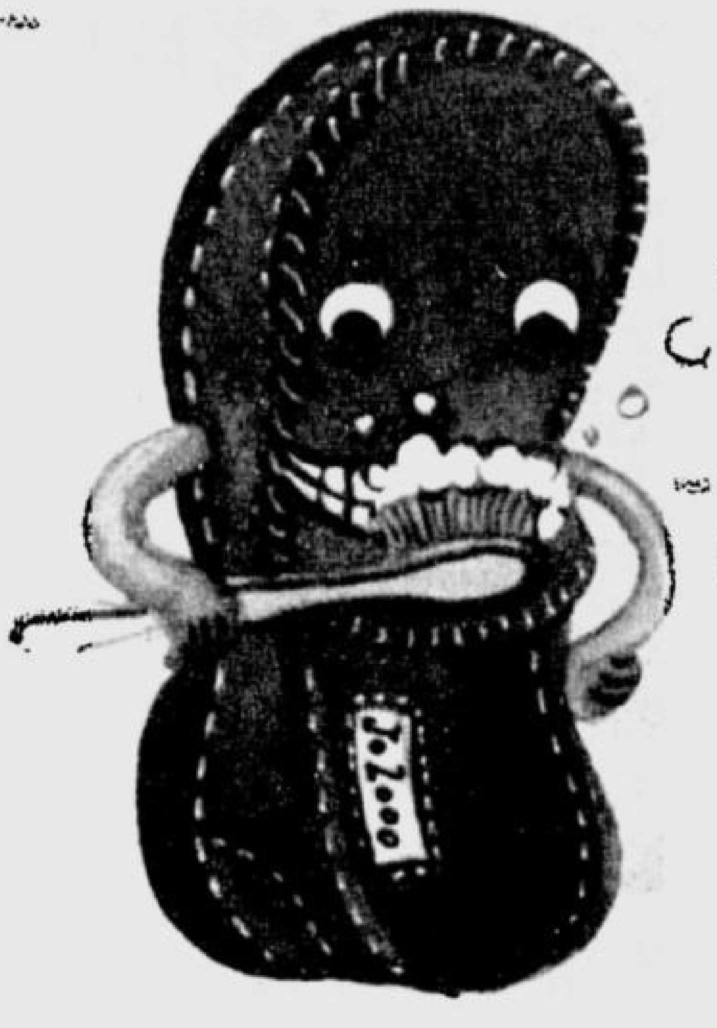
*Si **Abi** ay isang web designer. Siya ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

Apat na Tulang Sapin ng Paa

NI PAULINA FLORES-BAUTISTA
GUHIT NI JOANNE DE LEON

FOR
or
By
KIDS

Sapatos



Sapatos, sapatos
tinatapak-tapakan
kung saan-saan.

Sapatos, sapatos
aalis kung saan iutos
iya'y walang-paltos.

Sapatos, sapatos
sulong nang sulong
kung saan paparoon.

Sapatos, sapatos
sunod nang sunod
kahit napapagod.

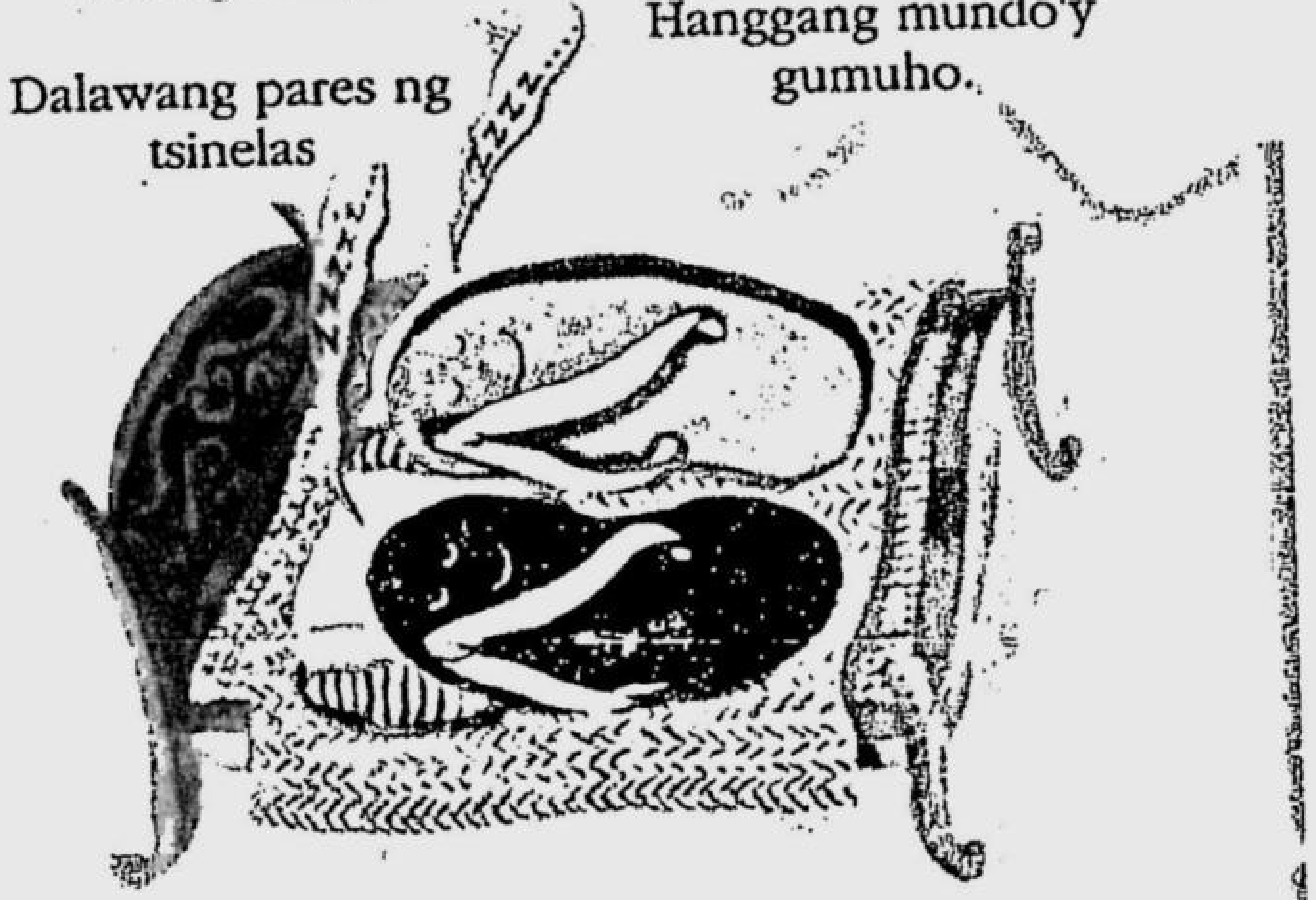
Sapatos, sapatos
linisin o hindi
depende sa may-ari.

Tsinelas

Dalawang pares ng
tsinelas
sa tabi ng katre
'sang pares e sa
babae
'sang pares e sa
lalaki
'tanda na ang
mag-asawa'y
Wala, wala,
walang-away.

Dalawang pares ng
tsinelas
Sa tabi ng tig-isang katre
'sang pares e sa batang
lalaki
'sang pares e sa tin-edger
na lalaki
magkapatid na lalaki
sabay lumalaki.

Sa tsinelas
Namamalas
pamilya'y buo
Hanggang mundo'y
gumuho.



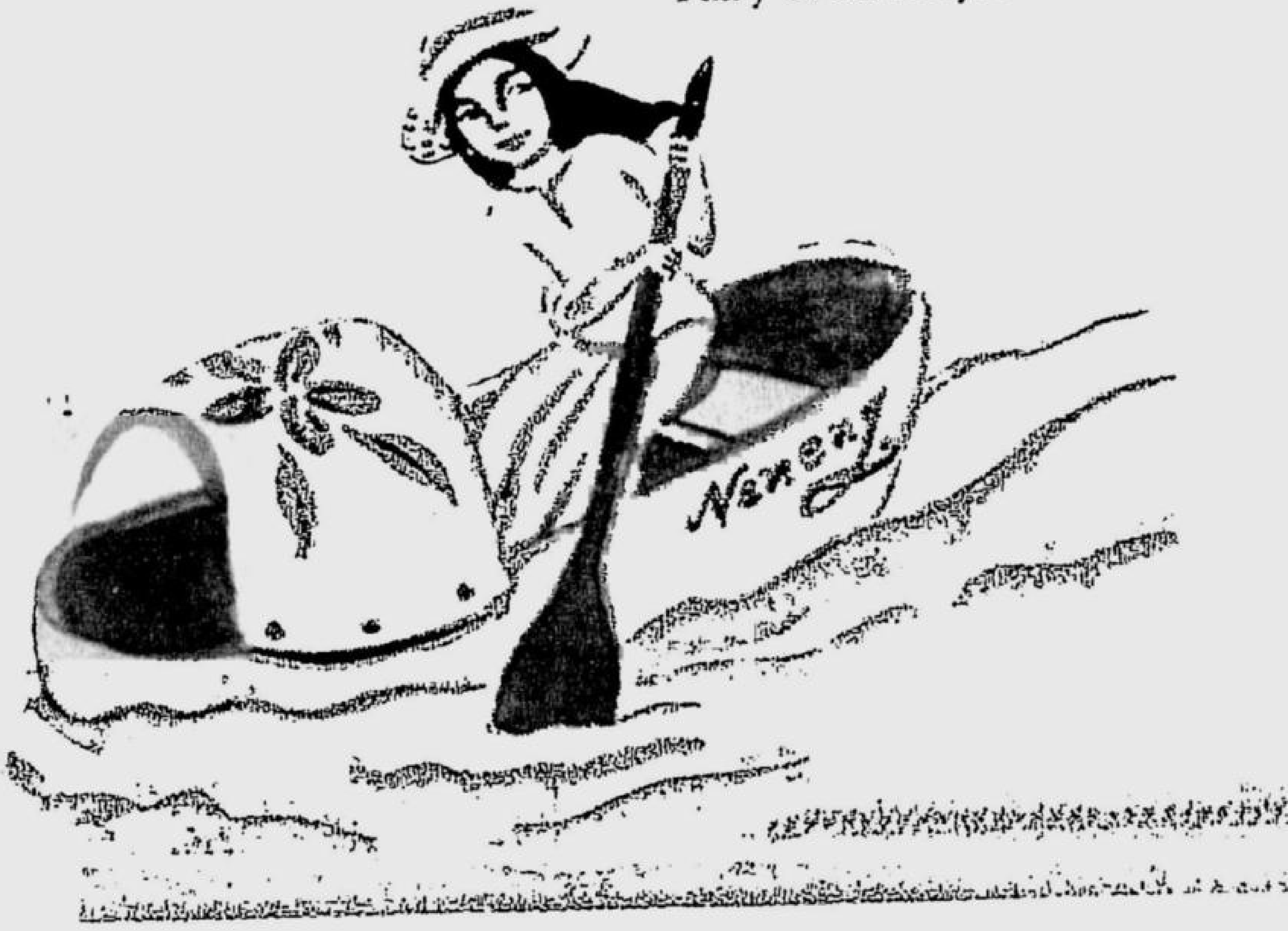
Bakya

Bakya, bakya
kelan mauuuso kaya?
Iya'y Pinoy na Pinoy
Sapin na may "Hoy! Hoy!"

Bakya, bakya
Sapin na pangmasa
Murang-mura ang pagpasa
presyo'y baryang-barya.

Bakya, bakya
alam mong may
darating
dahil sa tok-tok-aliling
na ingay ang dating.

Bakya, bakya
kung suot mo'y bakya
mapapasayaw ka kaya?
Paa'y di ikahihiya.

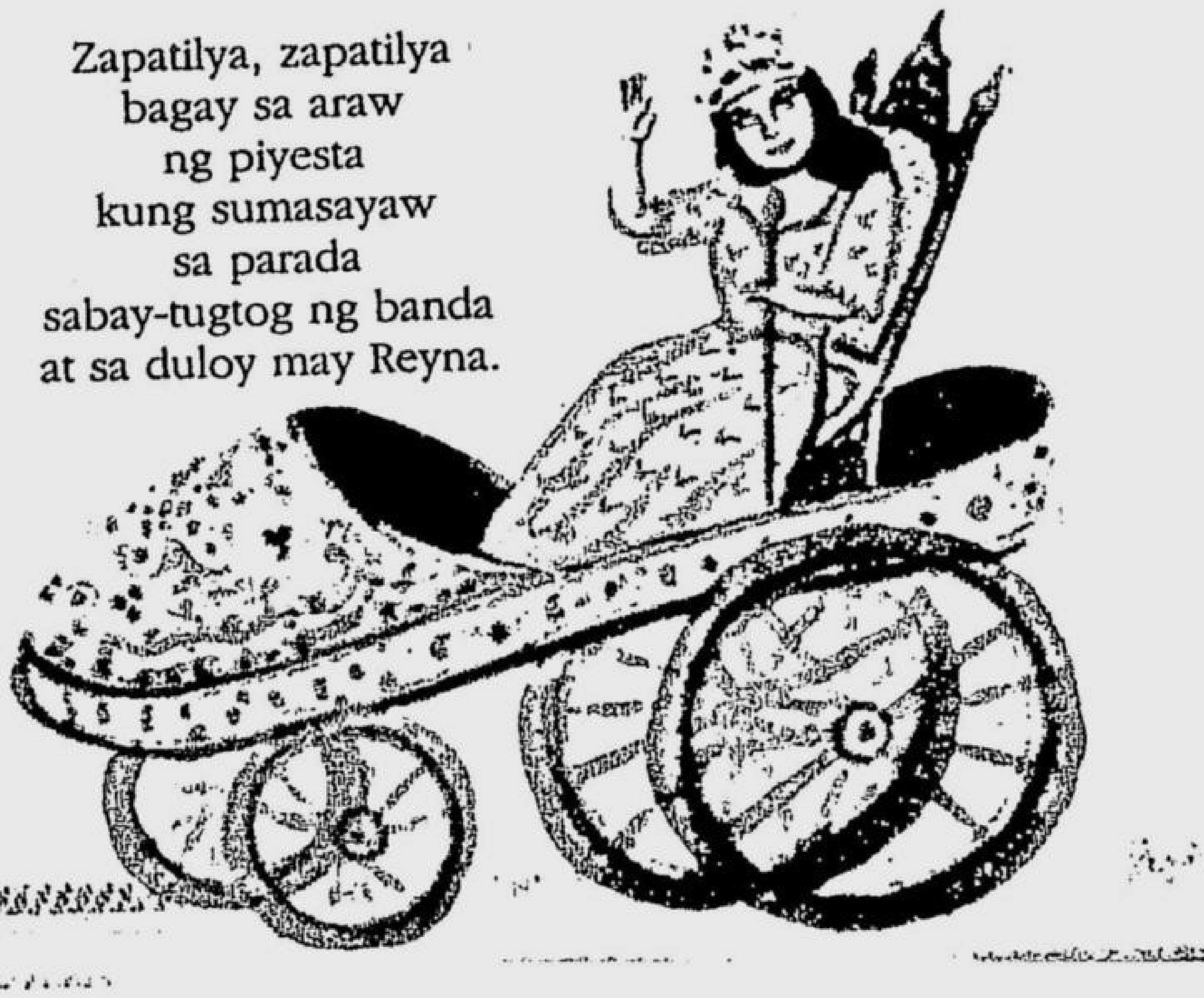


Zapatilya

Zapatilya, zapatilya
bagay sa sedang paa
ng dalaga,
suot ay baro't saya
o magarang Maria Clara.

Zapatilya, zapatilya
bagay sa araw
ng piyesta
kung sumasayaw
sa parada
sabay-tugtog ng banda
at sa duloy may Reyna.

Zapatilya, zapatilya
suot ng Reyna Elena
at mga sagala
kaakbay ay Constantino
sa Sta. Cruz de Mayo.



Beaky Mwah!!!

Ming Sandig is Manila Zoo's bird lady with a bag of tricks

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

GOLDIE the Macaw is a good bird. When she sees trash, she picks it up and throws it in the trashcan. She's obedient and respectful too. When her trainer, Emilia "Ming" Sandig asks her to fetch water, she'll carry a small pail and fly down a well to fill it up. Then she'll even walk up to Ming's hand and "make *mano*" when she's through.

"Training animals is like raising children," says Ming, "if you mold them with tender loving care, they will grow tame and you will win their affection too."

Bird hunter to bird trainer

Ming's own affection for animals started only when she began working as a medical technologist for the Manila Zoo 14 years ago.

"When I was young, I really didn't have any interest in animals," she says, admitting sadly that she even once joined her cousins in hunting birds with a slingshot. "But the zoo's veterinarian, Dr. (Romulo) Bernardo who is now the zoo's director, helped me. He was the one who taught me how to take care of the animals and this is how my love for them developed," she explains.

Ming learned to love the animals so much that she and Dr. Bernardo decided in 1990 to come up with a show that would teach zoo visitors to be kinder to all the earth's creatures—a bird show.

Slowly, the two of them taught themselves how to train birds from reading books. "We started training the birds when they were less than a year old. We would observe their gestures and watch their behavior," says Ming.

The birds, she shares, aren't really taught tricks but are just made to repeat gestures or actions they already tend to do often. "If a bird likes picking things up, for example," she explains, "he can be trained to be a retriever." The secret, she adds, is in giving them a treat, like sunflower seeds, when they do something you like.

Pucker up without fear

Often, while training the birds, Ming got bitten pretty badly. But, she says, "I've learned to love them even if they bite and I keep going just to win their trust."

Beaky/p.10

TLC. Goldie (above) gives Ming some feather-soft love while Dino the Iguana (left) gets a big warm hug.

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ____________
He/She is ____ years old and is
my ____________
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) ____________
2) ____________
3) ____________
4) ____________
and
5) ____________

My nominee lives at ____________
____
Give him/her a call at ____________
____________ or send him/her an e-mail
at ____________
By the way, I'm ____________
____
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
____
You may call me at
____

¿ThinkathoN?
By Bong Barrameda

Terms of Impeachment

WE'VE listed the definitions of certain terms made popular by the ongoing "Trial of the Century." To earn the judges' nod, try matching each definition with its "rightful" word or phrase found somewhere down below.

1. The statements or evidences given by a witness under oath or affirmation.
2. An attorney who advises and represents a party in a legal proceeding
3. Any willful disobedience to, or disregard of, a court order or any misconduct in the presence of a court; action that interferes with a judge's ability to administer justice or that insults the dignity of the court
4. Literally, "under penalty to bring with you," a command to a witness to produce documents.
5. A description of a person, especially a criminal defendant, that results from adding to his real name other names by which he is known.
6. The questioning of an opposing party's witness about matters brought up during direct examination.
7. The act or practice of giving or taking money or favor in order to influence the judgment or conduct of a person in a position of trust
8. The obligation of a party to prove his allegations during a trial.
9. Indirect, secondary, or incidental evidence from which a judge or jury might make inferences; a fact that can be used to infer another fact.
10. Lying under oath.
11. A preconceived notion of guilt or innocence concerning a party without consideration of the facts; having a bias in favor of one of the parties in a trial.
12. A request asking a judge to issue a ruling or order on a legal matter.
13. The initial questioning of a witness by the party that called the witness.
14. The sworn testimony of a witness taken before trial held out of court with no judge present. The witness is placed under oath to tell the truth and lawyers for each party may ask questions. The questions and answers are recorded. When a person is unavailable to testify at trial, the deposition of that person may be used. Part of the pre-trial discovery (fact-finding) process.
15. An agreement between parties to a dispute or court action that a certain fact is true or uncontested. Also an agreement between parties to a specific procedure or action such as a stipulation to extend time to answer a complaint.

Alias
Motion
Burden of proof
Prejudice
Direct examination
Circumstantial evidence
Contempt of court
Subpoena duces tecum
Perjury
Cross-examination
Deposition
Stipulation
Bribery
Counsel ·
Testimony

Answers:

1. Testimony
2. Counsel
3. Contempt of court
4. Subpoena duces tecum
5. Alias
6. Cross-examination
7. Bribery
8. Burden of proof
9. Circumstantial evidence
10. Perjury
11. Prejudice
12. Motion
13. Direct examination
14. Deposition
15. Stipulation

Ratings :

13 - 15

superbrain !

10 - 12

excellent !

6 - 9

good !

Beaky Mwah!!!

(from page 9)

With much patience and bandaged fingers, Ming was finally able to teach a red chattering lorie named Reddy how to say hello and sing "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

"But he was very observant," Ming adds, with a titter, "his cage was beside the sink and he would watch me brush every morning.

"One day he saw me lift my glass and he made gargling sounds ahead of me. When I started brushing, he also brushed his beak on his cage!" Reddy later went on to learn how to bark like a dog, meow like a cat and ring like a telephone.

EASTER loves a cockatoo cuddle

For her show at the zoo, Ming has a cockatoo named Easter who flies to a person's arm when called. She also has, of course, Goldie. Aside from her other tricks, Goldie also gives the sweetest beak-to-lips kisses this side of the Manila Zoo.

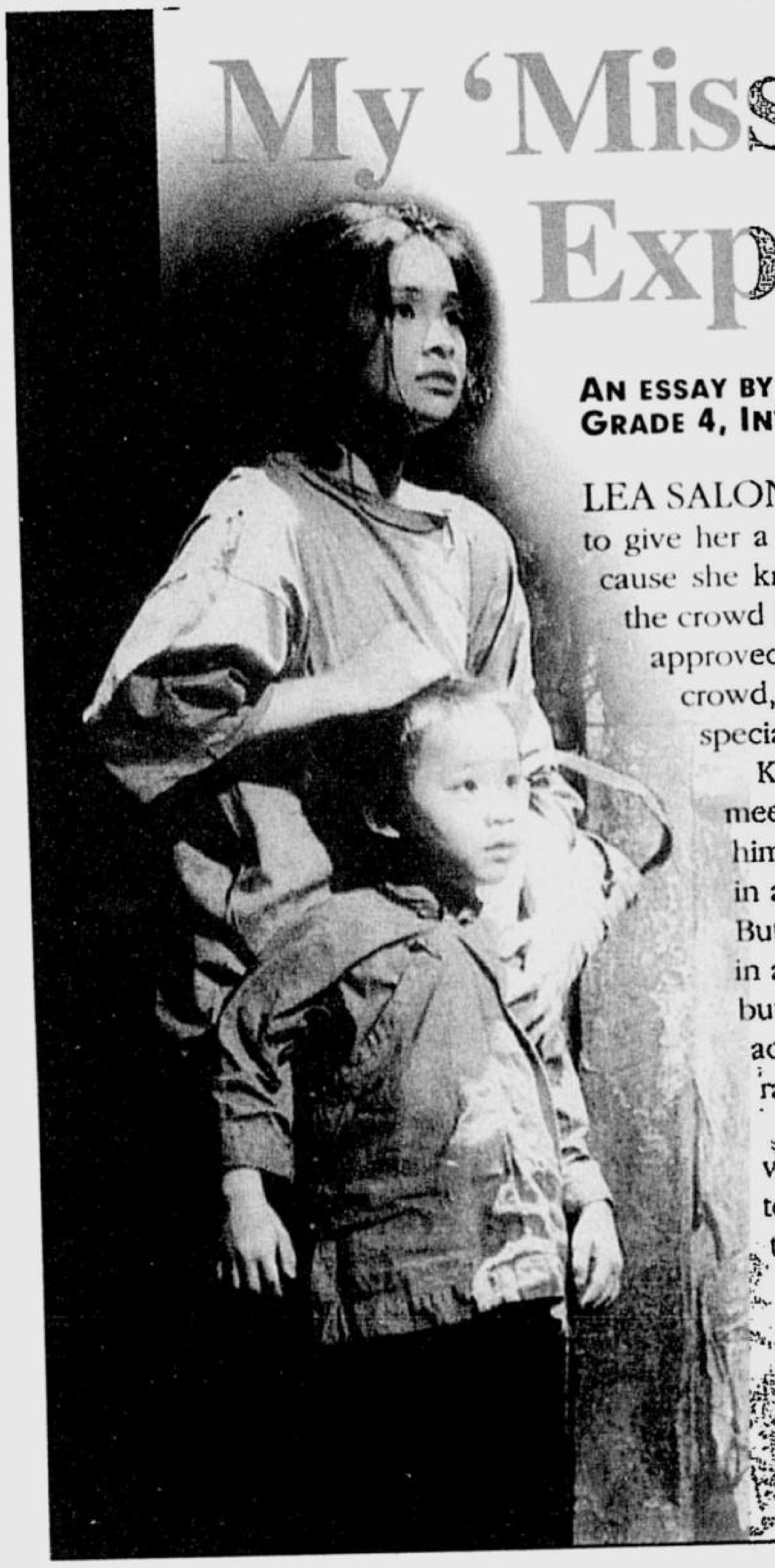
Smiling, Ming tells us, "Sometimes, I'm really tired after work but when I see these birds, after hugging and kissing them all the stress I feel vanishes."

Big Word Alert

A **medical technologist** or med tech is someone who works in the laboratory to identify and test different body fluids and tissues. Ming was trained as a med tech for people and had to learn how to apply her training to animals. "Usually, I used the same procedure to get the specimen samples," she says, "but for the animals it would be on a different part of the body." For example, in humans, we get the drop of blood for our blood test from a fingertip. In birds, the med tech has to clip off a small tip of their claw.

"BE GENTLE WITH MY FRIEND," Ming tells the kids.

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON



My 'Miss Saigon' Experience

AN ESSAY BY KYLA NOVELL
GRADE 4, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

LEA SALONGA was stunning as the crowd stood to give her a standing ovation. She was smiling because she knew that she did a wonderful job and the crowd in the Cultural Center of the Philippines approved of her singing. I happened to be in the crowd, and I am going to tell you about my special experience on "Miss Saigon."

Kim is a lady who entertains men and she meets Chris. After spending one night with him they fell in love. This love was expressed in a touching song called "Sun and Moon." But tragedy came. Both of them tried to get in a helicopter bound for the United States, but because there was a huge mob, Chris accidentally let go of Kim. They were separated.

Years passed and Kim was living in a very old house. Kim now had a little boy to feed and take care of. Soon Kim went to Bangkok and worked there. In the meantime, Chris married a woman named Ellen in the US. When Chris found out that Kim was still alive, he went to Bangkok where she met Kim again. Kim told him to take her son. Chris agreed to take Kim's son.

As Chris was leaving, he heard a gunshot. Chris raced back to Kim's room. He found Kim on the floor, dead. Kim could not stand to live without both of her loved ones.

The story made me sad. I wished Kim did not end her life. I would rather see her work and try to make contact with Chris and their child. It would have been better for her child to grow up with his mother rather than to know that his mother took her own life just so he would have a better future. The child in the story would never have known the love of a real mother.

The character of the Engineer was the most entertaining. He expressed his different wants, which people would not openly admit. He wanted to be rich or get enough money to be able to go to the US. He tried to reach the "American Dream" through different means, but he never succeeded. I felt sorry for him as he lost his principles and tried to get what he wanted, and yet he never did.

Overall, the acting was superb especially the main characters—Kim, who had such a dramatic face, the Engineer was so funny and Chris for looking so strong and brave. The many different props, which were used in the show, were beautiful such as the real helicopter used in the part where Chris and Kim were trying to escape from Vietnam. The singing was wonderful. Lea's voice lifted me up while that of the Engineer's booming voice made us, the audience, excited. I left the theater feeling that I was very lucky to see this fantastic show.

***Kyla** has studied at the International School Manila since kindergarten. Her interests are baseball, swimming, piano and writing. She hopes to become a writer-photographer one day.*

LEA Salonga plays Kim in this photo of the musical's London premiere in the late '80s.

Wanna be a JI correspondent?

WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5.**

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on short bond paper. Mail it to:

I wanna be a JI correspondent!
The Junior Inquirer
Philippine Daily Inquirer
P.O. Box 2353
Makati Central Post Office
1263 Makati City

JUNIOR INQUIRER

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Art N. Craft

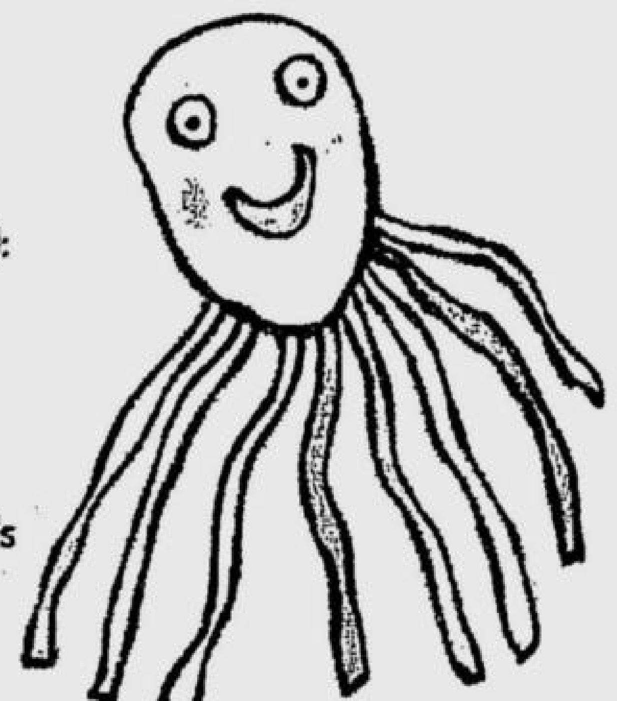
soon-to-be-famous, all-around CREATIVE GUY!

HI EVERYONE! AS PROMISED, HERE'S HOW TO MAKE YOUR VERY OWN OCTOPUS PIÑATA!

Perfect for parties!
Check out the materials list, and let's go!

THINGS YOU'LL NEED:

a balloon
newspaper
scissors
paints and brushes
water and a basin
white glue (like Elmer's glue)



1. Mix 2 parts glue with 1 part warm water. Stir well.
2. Tear newpaper into strips. Cover the balloon with about 4 layers of newspaper, using the glue mixture. Allow to dry well. This may take one or two days.
3. Paint your piñata with bright colors and designs. Don't forget the eyes and octopus smile. You can add glitters for added effect.
4. Cut 8 long strips of newspaper for the octopus' legs. Paint them in different colors and stick them onto the octopus head.
5. When your piñata is thoroughly dry, ask an adult to cut out a small lid on the top, prick the balloon and pull it out. Fill the hollow with candies. Tie a string to your piñata and have an adult suspend it from the cieling for your party.

FROM NOY'S NOTEBOOK...

What is the main ingredient in the drink "salabat"?

☐ tomatoes
☐ baguio beans
☐ ginger

answer: ginger

FROG OR TOAD?

You may not see them, but frogs have teeth.

What's the difference? Commonly, what we call a "frog" is that hopping cutie that lives near water, has long legs, smooth skin and is rather slim. The "toad", on the other hand, is a land dweller that's dry, kind of fat with warty skin.

BY THE WAY,

it isn't true that holding a frog or toad gives you warts.

While they may have gorgeous smiles, toads do not have teeth.

Frogs and toads are AMPHIBIANS -- animals that live in water and move to land when they get older.

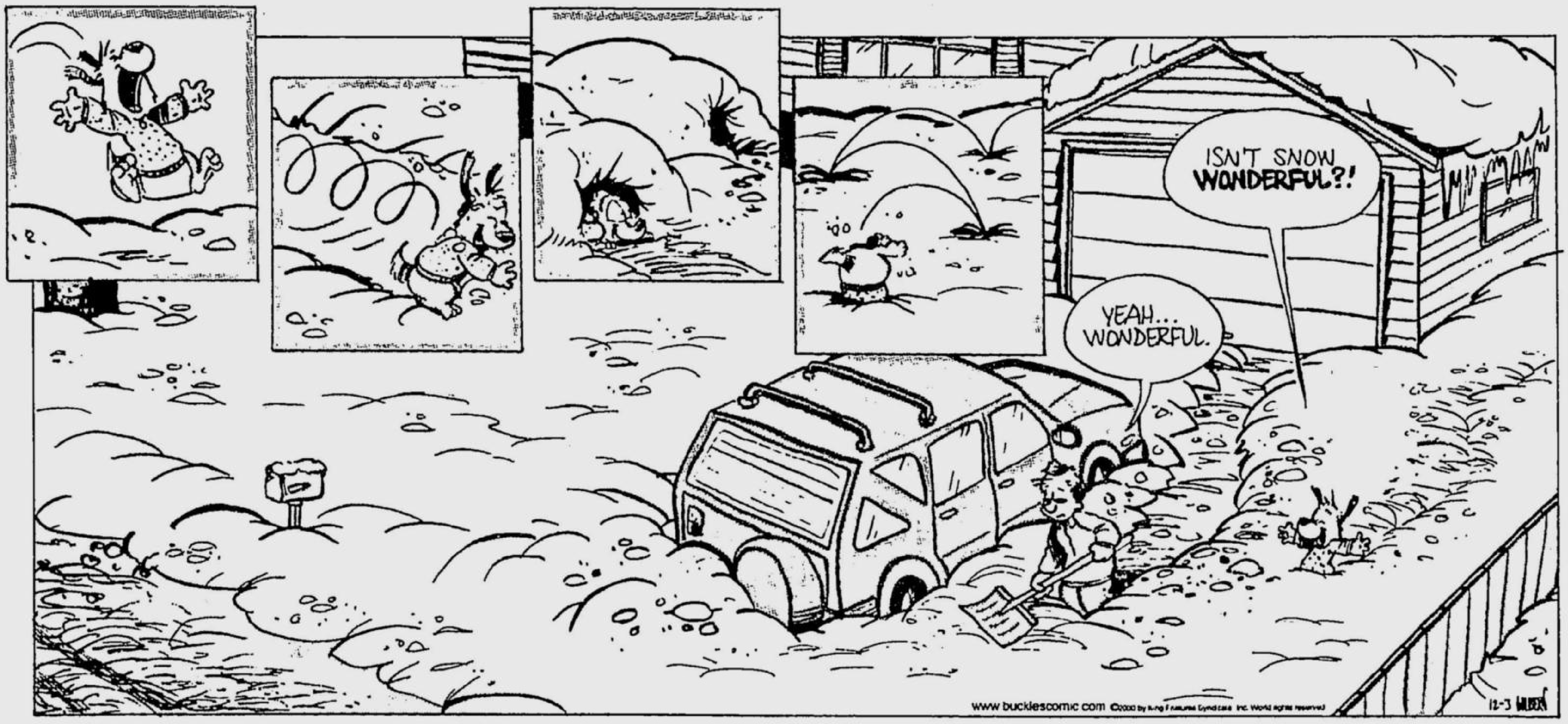
FIND SIX "FROGGY" WORDS!

A	M	P	H	I	B	I	A	N	J
L	S	L	N	A	T	J	S	D	V
E	P	S	Y	E	W	A	T	E	R
G	I	F	R	O	G	K	O	L	N
S	D	H	C	L	R	B	A	M	U
Q	W	A	R	T	O	S	D	R	E
R	L	O	A	D	M	Q	T	W	A

frog, toad, legs, water, wart, amphibian

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


ISN'T SNOW WONDERFUL?!
YEAH... WONDERFUL.
12-3 GILBERT

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